



## Head teacher and GP wanted for Colonsay

## WIN

WIN £200 WORTH OF FERRY TRAVEL

Entry details on page 42.

# Call for 'sensible' approach in dealing with coronavirus

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Organisations and businesses in Oban and the surrounding area are putting plans in place to deal with the current coronavirus threat.

At the time of going to print there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Argyll and Bute, but with positive cases in Scotland and around the globe rising daily organisations are looking at measures to protect from and contain the virus within the community, as well as during a potentially busy tourist season.

The subject was discussed at a meeting of the Port of Oban Cruise Group (POCG) on Monday with the committee agreeing to work with Argyll and Bute Council and Cruise Scotland, taking notice of their protocols and advice.

Robert Black, chairman of POCG, said: 'The safety and health of passengers, crew and port staff is the number one priority for the UK cruise industry.'

'Cruise lines worldwide are maintaining close contact with health professionals and regulators, including the World Health Organisation, and are continually assessing and modifying policies and procedures as developments emerge.'

**'We will ensure our volunteers who meet passengers adhere to latest guidelines.'**

'This includes the modification of itineraries, where required, as well as health, travel and contact screening where appropriate, for passengers and crew who have recently travelled from or through affected areas.'

'We will ensure that any of our volunteers who meet cruise ship passengers always adhere to the latest published guidelines.'

Meanwhile the hospitality sector is preparing.

Crerar Hotels has seven premises in Scotland, includ-

ing the Oban Bay, Isle of Mull and the Loch Fyne, and chief executive Paddy Crerar told The Oban Times that his group had 'very resilient plans in place' to restrict and cope with any outbreak.

He said: 'In many ways we are fortunate that we always aim for best practice on everything we do, particularly for health and safety.'

'Covid-19 is simply a virus and unlike, say, airborne Noroviruses (winter vomiting disease) it's less infectious.'

'If it happens, we have plans ready and, of course, our main focus, as it should be for all of us, is to restrict the chances of infection by really pushing the need for the personal hygiene requirements for our teams and our guests.'

Local businesses do not seem to be suffering from the threat of the virus.

Mr Crerar said that bookings 'remain on par with expectations and ahead of the previous year', while Les Crane, who owns Manor House Hotel said

Continued on page six

## Mirror, mirror on the wall...



Luig's cast of Snow White and the Curse of the Ice Queen are keeping fingers and toes crossed that they 'break a leg' this weekend when they bring bumper banter, colourful characters and clever one-liners to the stage. For the full story and photographs, turn to pages 28 and 29.



## BED & MATTRESS SALE

Fantastic offers on beds and mattresses  
Call in store and try before you buy



Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban PA344HQ, 01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk

OT

# Anastasija helps youngsters brush up on teeth health

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban dental therapist Anastasija Malove is raising funds to show orphans in Morocco how to use a toothbrush.

Tooth decay is a problem in orphanages and schools in the country and Anastasia, who works at Oban Dental Care in Lochside Street is travelling out with a charity to help teach youngsters how to look after their teeth.

Anastasija flies to Essaouira on Morocco's Atlantic Coast on May 30 and part of her role during her one-week stint as a volunteer will also be to remove teeth that can not be saved.

Anastasija, who lives in Oban, has tried to join a similar project in India for the last couple of years but the organisation could not pull together a big enough team.

She said: 'In my day-to-day clin-



ical practice, I get to see a lot of people suffering from toothache. Luckily here, we have all the facilities, equipment, and more important, clinicians to help them out. But not all the communities in the world are that fortunate.

'In Morocco we'll be going

round orphanages and schools promoting healthy teeth. I'll be showing the children ways to look after their teeth and that will include using a toothbrush. Some of them will never have owned a toothbrush before.

'I'll also be taking some teeth

**Anastasija Malove is fundraising for her trip to Morocco to help children with tooth decay.**

out,' she said. Anastasija has set up a crowdfunding page to help raise £1,000 towards the cost of her volunteering week, she will also be using her own money towards travel.

Funds are needed to pay for equipment and instruments and sterilisation kits that the team will need.

The charitable organisation Anastasija will be working with is called Dental Mavericks, which also runs projects in Lebanon, supporting vulnerable communities.

This year it will have helped more than 260,000 people through 95 outreach projects, supported by 883 volunteers.

To support Anastasia make a donation via [virginmoneygiving.com/AnastasijaMalove](http://virginmoneygiving.com/AnastasijaMalove)

## Bereavement café aims to cause 'ripple' in community

A new café based around talking about life, death and bereavement will open next week in Oban, writes Charlie Harris.

Ripples café, which launches next Wednesday March 18 at 7pm, will be held at the New Hope community kitchen on Soroba Road.

Ripples has been set up to give people a space to share experiences about bereavement, in a friendly non-judgemental environment, while enjoying a cup of coffee and cake.

The launch night will be used to provide information to the community and set the agenda for the coming months.

The café revolves around discussion, as opposed to resembling a counselling or support session, and aims to 'increase awareness of death and dying with a view to helping people to freely express loss and to make the most of their lives', according to organisers.

Beth Campbell from New Hope said: 'In 2018 I was diagnosed with cancer and I'm now in remission. I was inspired to work with Marie Curie to offer people in the community a safe space to talk. I would have found it a real help to have had a place specifically focused on talking about death, dying, and the effects of bereavement on my family, with others.'

Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one, is dealing with grief, or simply wants a chat about these issues are welcome.

Entry is by donation and open to anyone above the age of 16, with meetings on a fortnightly basis.

## POLICE FILES

■ About 10.20am on March 2, on Lochside Street, Oban, a blue BMW motor car, had its rear bumper damaged by another car. Police are investigating.

■ About 2am on March 4, police received a report of people

allegedly fighting in George Street, Oban. Police attended and subsequently, a man, 27, and a man, 28, were arrested. Both were later charged with allegedly assaulting each other. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ About 7.30pm on March 4, in the Tesco car park, Oban, a white VW Polo car was report-

edly being driven in a careless manner, and allegedly carrying out handbrake turns. Police are investigating.

■ About 9.10am on March 5, a flat in George Street, Oban, was searched by police. A 36-year-old man and 33-year-old woman were allegedly found to be in possession of and concerned in the supply of diamorphine. They

were charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ **If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local Police Station on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

**March is Pet Anxiety Month**



**Buy one Adaptil or Feliway Diffuser and get a free refill or 60ml spray. Come and see us for more info!**

**FELIWAY** **ADAPTIL**

Crown Vets, Glen Nevis Place, Fort William PH33 6DA  
Tel: 01397 702727 [info@crownvetsfortwilliam.co.uk](mailto:info@crownvetsfortwilliam.co.uk)



**ALLIED SURVEYORS SCOTLAND**

**Home Reports and Valuations**

**Local surveyors operating throughout Argyll, the Highlands and Islands**

Dunoon 01369 705000  
Helensburgh 01436 674976  
Fort William 01397 705541

[www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com](http://www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com)

# It's a beach not a factory, argue loch protestors

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Campaigning conservationists have accused a marine company of 'gross negligence' and commandeering a public beach.

Friends of Loch Creran claims Gael Force Fusion, formerly Fusion Marine, has been polluting beaches, bays and waters with its manufacturing waste for 10 years from its Barcaldine site and that Marine Scotland and SEPA are doing nothing to stop it.

A six-minute video on social media showing plastic waste, polystyrene and frayed rope fibres on Teithil Beach was viewed by hundreds of people within hours of being posted.

Recent storms washed up 'a legacy of historic waste' along the loch shores say campaigners, who linked much of it to Gael Force Fusion, in



Andrew Holder and Maggie Brotherston on Teithil Beach.

16\_T11\_lochcreranwaste

particular the shavings from smoothed-off ends of black plastic pipes used to make the fish cages.

Just days after the film was released, Teithil Beach had been tidied, with chains anchoring fish cages to the beach instead of fraying ropes adding to the worrying heaps of micro-fibres, said Andrew Holder

and Maggie Brotherston from Friends of Loch Creran who have been monitoring the area.

'It's quite evident they are being grossly negligent,' said Mr Holder, who added: 'They've only cleaned up now because they were shamed into it by our film.'

The friends say Gael Force Fusion is making 'clear

breaches' of the Environmental Protection Act - knowingly allowing waste to get into the water causing pollution is breaking the law, they told The Oban Times: 'This is a public beach, it's not a factory space but Gael Force Fusion has commandeered it and there are clear breaches of the law.'

'We have invited SEPA and Marine Scotland to come and have a look at the pollution washing up but as yet they've not taken us up on the offer,' said Mr Holder.

Gael Force Fusion plans to move its manufacturing further round the loch to the former Sealife Centre.

The friends group is aghast: 'They should be on an industrial estate somewhere, enclosed and well away from the water, not further up the loch. This is a marine special protection area,' said Ms Brotherston, with Mr Holder

adding: 'We want them to take responsibility for the 10 years they have been here and polluting.'

Marc Wilson, spokesperson for Gael Force Fusion, part of Gael Force Group said Marine Scotland had confirmed a marine licence for building and launching pens from Barcaldine was not needed and said SEPA, although continuing to scrutinise processes on the site, had also visited and was satisfied.

A SEPA spokesperson said officers had previously responded to complaints and had 'substantiated unacceptable waste practices at the site, provided clear instructions regarding duty of care requirements and have confirmed steps being taken by the business to prevent further releases of plastic into the environment.'

SEPA will also conduct a

follow-up inspection with Scottish Natural Heritage and is in talks with Marine Scotland about the issue, which confirmed it did not consider a licence necessary for the assembly of fish cages.

Mr Wilson said 'much improved' processes had been implemented by the business to capture waste from production and no level of littering was acceptable.

He also said the video highlighted 'a genuine opportunity for improvement which we appreciate and agree with' and that reviews of using ropes and how polystyrene is used and stored had 'immediately commenced' to 'ensure that what is portrayed in the video does not happen again.'

Gael Force Fusion's new site will be designed to make sure any debris can be captured and collected more easily and sent for recycling.



The Robertson family from Taynuilt tuck into coffee morning treats with RNLi volunteers Michael Boyd and Ann Scott on stand by. 16\_T11RNLicoffeemorn

## RNLi fundraisers at the helm

Fundraisers for Oban Lifeboat took in more than £400 at a coffee morning to help save lives at sea, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The event at The Royal Hotel in the town was the first of its kind for the charity in some time and was a huge success, said organisers.

Money made through meringues and other tasty treats on offer will go towards supporting the work of the Mora Edith MacDonald and her volunteer crew.

'Our thanks go to all of those who braved the weather to come along, but also to those who helped by providing home baking and assistance on the day,' said Oban Lifeboat's fundraising chairman Phil Hamerton.

'A great big thank you to all the bakers in Oban who made the event a success; to the Royal Hotel for hosting us and to Mackay's the jam-makers, the Little Potting Shed and Cafe Shore, who also donated produce.

'I'd also like to thank all of our volunteers who made the event possible. We really couldn't do this without them,' he added.

The volunteer fundraising team play a key role in raising money for Oban Lifeboat Station and, as the RNLi is a charity relying entirely on donations, it is an important job.

'We are always on the look out for new recruits for our fundraising team, so please get in touch if interested.'

## 'Keep Oban Beautiful' will be hosting an OBAN SPRING CLEAN

at the end of March, culminating on the weekend of 28th and 29th.

Groups, businesses and individuals are invited to 'Pick a Patch' to clean up or to join in with friends or neighbours.



Sign up by contacting our co-ordinator Claire Rizos, at [c.rizos@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rizos@btinternet.com) or on 07891 543540.

More information can be found on Facebook pages - Keep Oban Beautiful or LoveOban.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Oban Business Improvement District  
[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



OT

## Loganair keeps Argyll connected

Loganair has come to the rescue keeping Argyll connected after Flybe's collapse.

Glasgow-based Loganair reacted to the closure by announcing plans to safeguard UK regional connectivity by taking up 16 routes formerly flown by Flybe.

The 16 routes – from existing Loganair base airports at Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Inverness and Newcastle – will be launched progressively over the next four months. Flights from Glasgow to Southampton take off from March 30 and tickets are on sale now.

The airline says it will also be recruiting pilots, cabin crew and engineers to be based at Glasgow. The Scottish airline will be adding nearly 400 flights each week.

Loganair's chief executive Jonathan Hinkles said: 'By stepping in quickly with a comprehensive plan, Loganair is aiming to maintain essential air connectivity within the UK regions.'

# Head teacher and GP wanted for Colonsay

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Cameras have been focusing on Colonsay as the Hebridean island seeks a new headteacher and GP.

With deadlines for both top jobs due to end tomorrow (Friday), residents called in help from the media – including a film crew for BBC's *The One Show*.

Youngsters at Kilchattan Primary School were busy making their own social media video last week, with help from former pupil Liam McNeill behind the camera, as part of their stepped-up search for a headteacher that started almost one year ago.

The six pupils and one in nursery are hoping the latest recruitment round will be third time lucky but in the meantime current head teacher Gill Mackenzie, now



Left, Kilchattan head teacher Gill Mackenzie with pupils in one of the UK's most remote playgrounds. And below, Dr Jan Brooks and Dr David Binnie are retiring after 10 years of service to Colonsay.

**YOURSTORY**  
sharewithus:editor@obantimes.co.uk  
telephone 01631 568000

trusted with your home for over  
**65 years**

**87% of homeowners say aspects of their home contribute to their positive mental health**

**A conservatory meets all the main requirements that homeowners have highlighted as important elements of being happy in your home**

## Improve your home and well-being with a Cairngorm conservatory

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk | f t

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000  
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315  
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956



in her eighth year, has agreed to stay on: 'I'll wait until they find the right person. It's not a hardship!' said Gill, who plans to stay on the island and set up her own education business linked with her love of horses.

The school's Facebook page, filled with snaps and snippets of island life, now has 600 followers says Grace Johnston, who heads up the school's hands-on parent council.

Someone with notched-up experience for the teaching-head post, not put off by small island living, incredibly patient, kind and friendly are sought-after qualities for the job, said Grace, adding: 'Someone who is a Gaelic speaker and musical would be a bonus.'

The pupils' wishlist for their new head teacher included 'adventurous, funny, artistic, sporty, someone who likes animals and being outdoors, a kayaker.'

Advantages of teaching on Colonsay are many and 'not being ruled by bells' throughout the school day is one of them. 'We only have an old-fashioned hand bell to get the children's attention but we don't have to use it that often,' said class teacher Sue Dance, who doubles up as the rugby coach in a borrowed field.

Parent Helen Mann said a candidate who embraced the great outdoors would be a big plus at the school, which has



its own kayaks, and added: 'Getting the whole summer off on Colonsay would be just the best.'

On the other side of the island at Scalascaig, the doctor's four-bed house will be a perk of the job for the new GP, replacing job-share couple Drs Jan Brooks and David Binnie when they retire to become crofters for pleasure – tending the needs of a few animals and polytunnel produce instead of 100 and more patients plus the bumper crop of summer visitors.

'Tourists are appreciative and often quite stunned at what we can do for them because they think they are in the middle of nowhere but we are a well-oiled machine,' said Dr Binnie.

'The patients are a great bunch to look after, they are very respectful of our private time. People on the island are resilient too, very helpful and

supportive of each other.

'We might be in a remote location but it's not isolated being a GP here. We've got a great team. Logistics can be challenging living where we do but the benefits far outweigh those challenges,' said Dr Binnie.

The teams include a community nurse, Oban and Lorn Hospital, pharmacist support, the Coastguard, air ambulance and ScotSTAR – the Scottish specialist transport and retrieval service for critically ill adults and children. CalMac is helpful too, added Dr Binnie.

The couple will be on hand to help the new GP settle in but having more time to spend with their three grandchildren growing up on the mainland and not having to be on 24-hour call is also something the husband and wife are looking forward to after 10 years of service.

# BED & MATTRESS SALE



## Azure - Memory Comfort



**20% off**  
WAS £649

**Now £519**

+2 free drawers

Standard double bed

## Libra - Geltex Pocket 1200 Comfort



**20% off**  
WAS £899

**Now £719**

+2 free drawers

Standard double bed

## Mattresses



**Lots of mattresses on display from £79.00**



## Gemini Eco - Pocket 1200



**20% off**  
WAS £649

**Now £519**

Standard double bed

## Venus - Latex 1400 Comfort



**20% off**  
WAS £849

**Now £679**

Standard double bed

## Neptune - Comfort Range



**20% off**  
WAS £549

**Now £439**

+ 2 free drawers

Standard double bed

**THIS IS A SMALL SELECTION OF THE EXTENSIVE RANGE WE HAVE ON SHOW**

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban Tel: 01631 565195 [info@mathesons.co.uk](mailto:info@mathesons.co.uk)

OT

# Free courses are just the business

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



This week I'm off to do another Business Gateway course, one of three that I'm taking part in this year.

However, over the years I've been lucky enough to be part of quite a few courses on social media and various other things related to my work.

I can't praise the courses highly enough, as I've always come away enthused and with a better insight into what I'm trying to achieve. The tutors have without fail been excellent and, even after the course has ended, they've been available to answer questions and offer help.

If you have any inclination to improve your skills, then have a look at the Business Gateway online and see what courses are still available this year. They can be full- or half-day and are a fantastic way to update your knowledge for no cost.

The other subject that has

## WHERE IS THIS?



taken my attention this week is the number of events that are coming up at the Corran Halls.

I was delighted with the Bon Giovi tribute act. What a fantastic band and a great turnout despite it being a very busy weekend.

And then we have Peat and Diesel announcing a concert that sold out in one day.

I'm so pleased that Oban is starting to attract bands to play here again.

I've just seen a Cliff and The Shadows act advertised

and I'm looking forward to seeing the cast of Still Game on stage, as well as the comedian Gary Meikle.

Please, please, though, if you see anything you would like to attend, book your tickets now. So many acts have cancelled in the past because tickets haven't sold quickly enough.

The photograph last week was in Gibraltar Street of the lovely spring plants, this week the photo is of another business you probably pass every day.



Harry Miles gets ready for take off. Photograph Blake Neale

# Dreams can come true

by Susan Windram  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

When you reflect on your childhood, you most likely remember family holidays.

However, for 22-year-old Harry Miles, from Livingston near Edinburgh, his family holidays did not just provide happy memories but directly shaped his future career.

Each year, Harry and his family holidayed in a caravan park in Oban, just a short distance from the town's tiny airport. Often found staring upwards, mesmerised by the aircraft taking off and landing each day, his holidays sparked a life-long passion for aviation.

Harry said: 'Oban was like a second home to us as we had a static caravan permanently sited there. I was amazed watching the aircraft coming and going and, by the age of nine, was becoming really interested in everything about them. Then, aged just 12, I enjoyed my first flight in a microlight

out of Oban – a big moment for me which sealed the deal in terms of what I wanted to do as a career.'

Fast forward a few years to 2013 and Harry received a gift voucher for a flying lesson at Tayside Aviation. Little did he know his instructor that day is now a captain at Loganair, his future place of work.

With his eyes firmly set on a career in flight, Harry left school in 2015 and began his Private Pilot's Licence (PPL) training at Tayside Aviation, a pre-requisite to the BSc (Hons) Professional Aviation Pilot Practice degree which he began in April 2016. The programme is run by Tayside Aviation in conjunction with Middlesex University and Aviation Skills Partnership.

Harry continued: 'I was one of the first students on the degree course. It was a lot of work but really rewarding and, because it's a small family business, everyone knows each other and there's a really sup-

portive environment, where they work on your technical skills, as well as your people skills.'

'There's a perception that you need about £120,000 to become a pilot but through the Tayside Aviation degree it's less than half of that. You leave with a degree and a job, a real win-win.'

After passing his Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) exams at the end of 2017 and his Multi-Engine Piston (MEP) rating and Commercial Pilot Licence, Harry began working as a flight instructor with Tayside Aviation in 2018. He is now completing the final part of the degree and will graduate later this year.

Summing up, Harry said: 'I absolutely loved my time at Tayside Aviation, and I'd urge anyone with a passion for flight to give it a go. It's a fantastic, rewarding and exciting career – I'm definitely on course to landing my dream job!'

# Groups encourage 'sensible' approach to coronavirus

**Continued from page one**  
that they had only had one cancellation to date – 'an American planning a European tour in the early summer'.

Issues relating to COVID-19 will be raised at this month's Oban Community Council (OCC) meeting on Monday March 30, but members are calling for the town's groups, businesses, organisations and councillors to share any information they have on the

prevention and containment of the virus now.

Chairperson Marri Malloy said: 'We are not looking to scaremonger but feel this is something that needs to be addressed and discussed sooner rather than later. We want to be able to reassure people and keep the spread of this virus under control.'

Kieron Green, chairman of Argyll and Bute Integrated Joint Board (IJB) said: 'Health services, including locally, are

ensuring that preparations have been made to deal with potential cases.'

'Scottish Government is very much taking a lead on all public information and is ensuring that this reflects the national picture. As chair of the IJB, I am reassured that we are as prepared locally as we can be.'

Members of the public are also being urged not to panic buy as shops and stores endeavour to keep their shelves stocked.

EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Design your dream door

Visit our home improvement **showroom** and get inspired!  
Design online at [cairngormgroup.co.uk/design](http://cairngormgroup.co.uk/design)

Cairngorm Group

tougher.warmer.smarter

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000

Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315

6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

[f](https://www.facebook.com/cairngormgroup)
[t](https://twitter.com/cairngormgroup)  
[info@cairngormgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@cairngormgroup.co.uk)  
[www.cairngormgroup.co.uk](http://www.cairngormgroup.co.uk)

## Teenager jailed for five years for girls' rape

### COURT

A sex attacker who told two girls he would have sex with them whenever he wanted was jailed for five years on Tuesday (March 10) after raping them.

Cameron Kerr, 19, subjected both the 16-year-old victims to physical as well as sexual abuse.

A judge told Kerr at the High Court in Edinburgh: 'Given the gravity of the crimes there is no suitable alternative to a sentence of imprisonment.'

Lord Beckett said he took into account that Kerr was aged 16 and 17 when the offences were committed.

The judge said he had also read four references for the youth which highlighted favourable aspects of his character, including helping others and engaging in charity work. He told Kerr were it not for the mitigating features the sentence would have been significantly longer.

But he said Kerr, latterly of Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, had committed 'a serious and frightening assault' on one victim and raped two young women.

He attacked the two victims in 2017 and 2018 at different addresses in and around the Oban area and Mid Argyll.

Charges made reference to serious physical assaults, including punching, biting and being seized by the throat.

Lord Beckett said: 'You told both of them you would have sex with them whenever you wanted and it is clear you knew you were raping them.'

Lord Beckett also ordered that Kerr be kept under supervision for a further three-year period as a public protection measure.

Kerr had earlier denied a string of charges but was convicted of carrying out two assaults and two rapes.

Defence counsel Tony Graham QC said Kerr continued to deny the offending.

Kerr will be placed on the sex offenders' register indefinitely.

## Man curses police officers' families in tirade of abuse

A man who launched a tirade of abuse on police officers saying he hoped their wives would die of cancer and their children hang themselves, is due back in court for sentencing today, March 12.

Ross Combe, now of 21A Corran Brae, Oban, admitted three charges of behaving in an abusive and threatening manner in the town over a three-hour period that lasted 'pretty much without pause', starting at a newsagents and ending at the police station. The incidents happened on March 1.

Hearing the facts earlier this week, Oban Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentencing so Combe's newly given address at Corran Brae could be checked.

The 38-year-old had been in

a newsagents just before 5pm on the day in question when he thought a man stocktaking in the shop was filming him. He started shouting and making threats before leaving.

The worker was left so concerned about Combe's behaviour that he contacted the police.

Combe then went to a pub and from the start was aggressive. He was heavily intoxicated the court heard. He turned his hostility on a customer and when the licensee arrived, he turned his aggression on her then left.

But he came back to the same pub later and there was more of the same behaviour in terms of his conduct. He was asked to leave and the police were called. Officers

picked him up as he was staggering down George Street.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said Combe was hostile to the officers and 'did not go quietly', shouting and swearing and directing a tirade of abuse at them saying, 'I hope your wives die of cancer and your children hang themselves'.

The court heard how alcohol had put Combe in the situation and he had 'absolutely no recall of events', but accepted full responsibility.

Combe, who is now on Pubwatch for six months, will also be sentenced today (March 12) for three other charges that he admitted on December 17 last year. Two were for threatening and abusive behaviour and the other involved a violent struggle.

## Bullying review deadline

Anyone affected by bullying, harassment or inappropriate behaviour within the NHS in Argyll and Bute has just two weeks left to participate in NHS Highland's Culture Review.

Launched on February 19, the review follows on from last year's damning report into NHS Highland's management culture by John Sturrock QC.

NHS Highland HR director Fiona Hogg said: 'The findings will help NHS Highland to ensure it takes the right actions to encourage reporting and address the causes of bullying and inappropriate behaviour.'

'The online questionnaire can be filled in from a phone, tablet or personal computer, so is accessible to everyone who wants to take part.'

The questionnaire is open until Friday March 27 and can be accessed online at <https://bit.ly/2vJ6UU3>.

To fill in a paper copy call 0131 316 1900.

## Free Clarins gifts at Gordons chemists

Gordons Chemists on George Street, Oban is renowned for offering a fabulous range of BIG BRANDS at UNBEATABLE prices. From medicines and healthcare products to household cleaning, it's a one-stop shop for all your everyday essentials! How convenient would it be to be able to purchase your everyday skin essentials at your local pharmacy too? Well at Gordons Chemists, you can!

With Oban's exclusive Clarins counter, you can receive FREE tailored advice and product recommendations from our very own Clarins consultant. Call in for a free consultation to find out more about your own skin. Gordons Chemists will help you to find the most suitable products to compliment your skin type and to incorporate seamlessly into your skincare regime.

And when better to call in than during the Clarins' Gift of Beauty event running from Thursday 12th – Saturday 28th March 2020 at Gordons Chemists. Between these dates call in for a consultation, buy two Clarins products (one to be skincare) and you can choose FOUR of your favourite Clarins travel essentials and take them away in a gorgeous beauty bag for FREE!

With this offer, you can take home FOUR of the below Clarins travel essentials in a gorgeous beauty bag:

- Gentle Foaming Cleanser – Dry/Sensitive 30ml
- One-Step Gentle Exfoliating Cleanser 30ml
- Toning Lotion 50ml
- Multi Active Day Cream 15ml
- Super Restorative Total Eye Concentrate 7ml
- Hand and Nail Treatment Cream 30ml
- Joli Blush Shade 2 Cheeky Pink 1.6g
- Crayon Khol/ Eyeliner Pencil 0.4g

So, be sure to get down and treat your skin to some Clarins love at Gordons Chemists, Oban!

(\*One collection per customer with two Clarins purchases – one to be skincare. While stocks last. Not to be used in conjunction with any other Clarins offer).



Gordons Chemists  
16 George Street  
Oban  
PA34 5SB  
01631562063

OPENING HOURS:  
MON – SAT:  
9:00AM - 5:30PM  
SUN:  
CLOSED

## CLARINS

### GIFT of BEAUTY

– WHICH 4 WILL YOU CHOOSE? –

Your choice of 4 beauty treats and a gorgeous beauty bag.

Available from Thursday 12 - Saturday 28 March 2020

Plus  
Extra Gift Worth £22\*\*

GORDONS CHEMISTS

\*A choice of 4 different products per customer, when you buy two or more recommended Clarins products, one to be skincare. One gift per customer while stocks last, not to be used in conjunction with any other Clarins offer. \*\*Yours when you purchase an additional skincare product. Based on average retail value of standard size products.

OT



Below, Rockfield Primary School pupil Marcel Mlynarczyk received a £10 Love Oban voucher for his drawing.

## Company chief drawn to Marcel's picture

BID4Oban boss Andrew Spence was so impressed by a piece of artwork by a Rockfield Primary School pupil that he has requested a copy of the drawing to hang in his Stevenson Street office.

In return Marcel Mlynarczyk, primary 5, received a £10 Love Oban gift voucher from the chief executive.

Marcel's drawing appeared in a double page Red Nose Day-Sport Relief advertising feature in last week's Oban Times in which businesses took an advert with 20 per cent off all the money raised going to the charity.

Rockfield Primary School



pupils did drawings of all the advertisers which were also featured in the spread.

# Colonsay fundraiser is to preserve island's past

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders on Colonsay are crowdfunding to make a future for their past.

A sum of £9,000 is needed to re-roof the vestry of the old Baptist Church at Kilchattan so it can be used to keep safe some of Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust's most prized possessions.

So far just less than £400 has been raised for the specialist store and library area to go in the re-roofed vestry.

Among the delicate treasures that need to be kept in controlled lighting and atmosphere are two tapestries, made by people who lived at Port Mor in the last century or possibly earlier, and also a blanket woven out of flax that grew round a loch where baptisms took place.

Recently the trust was lucky



Two of the trustees from Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust, Dr David Binnie and Carol MacNeill.

16\_T11\_colonsayheritagetrust

enough to find a first edition of a go-to reference book all about Colonsay written in the 1930s and was able to buy it for 'a knockdown price' – the old school register, also going back to that time, is in its hands too, as well as other precious books and documents.

The heritage centre, still with the church's original panelling, floor and windows, is open to visitors and the plan is for people to be able to access the most treasured pieces and documents stored in the new space on request once it is ready.

A giant bellows from the estate's blacksmith workshop, shattered pieces of blue china from a shipwreck, the island's telephone exchange, and quern stones from bygone grinding days are just some of the exhibits on show around the centre's walls, plus in-

formation panels telling the story of the island's past.

Hopes are to start work soon on replacing the slate roof and an existing window light of the vestry, although the plan is to re-use as much of the original slate as possible to preserve the building's character.

The Baptist Church was originally built by residents of Colonsay in 1879 for £300 and was looked after by the congregation until 2016 when, struggling to maintain it, they passed ownership of it on to the trust with the understanding it would remain available for occasional use as a church.

The trust, formed back in 1944, hopped about the island, residing in the old waiting room at the pier and also the island's generator shed before being given the Baptist Church to make its home.

No longer having to build itself a new hub as a base, the trust has thrown itself into activities, producing leaflets spanning the island's geology to sacred ground at Oransay Priory and working on projects with universities, archaeologists and experts, including from Kilmartin Museum.

Last year a burial cist was uncovered at Kiloran in an excavation that could possibly be from the Iron Age – and there could be more of them.

The trust also restored the original oil-lit Stevenson Scalascaig minor light from 1903 after it was rescued by the pier master, putting it on show once again.

The heritage centre is very much a living part of island life, getting involved in Colonsay's popular spring festival and being a venue for talks and folk music sessions.

Trustee Carol MacNeill said: 'We're very much a living part of the island.'

To make a donation go to [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/coht](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/coht)

**GET INVOLVED**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## auchrannie resort

Visit us on the beautiful Isle of Arran...

Find more information at:  
[www.auchrannie.co.uk](http://www.auchrannie.co.uk)

Auchrannie Resort  
Brodick  
Isle of Arran  
01770 302234

A range of accommodation including rooms, lodges & stylish retreats.

Three distinct dining experiences offering freshly prepared food from locally sourced ingredients.

With a destination spa, two leisure centres with pools & thermal suites as well as a variety of adventure activities & children's playbarn - there's something for everyone.

## Bingo benefits Oban festival



A charity bingo night at The View last Friday, March 6, raised £245 to help with the running of Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Handing over a cheque to festival organisers, Nicola Wilson thanked everyone who supported the event and added: 'Our next bingo is on Friday March 20 at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm, in aid of Family Mediation Argyll and Bute.'

# Puppy dog tale ends in owner's dramatic rescue

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A Lochgair gentleman wishes to send a 'profound thanks' to the emergency service personnel who rescued him after he got stuck on a remote hillside while trying to find his missing puppy.

Hew Service, originally from Ardfern, got himself into the tricky situation on Sunday March 1, when his Patterdale pup Torsa disappeared after breaking her tether while his wife Barbara was working in their six-acre woodland garden at Knock Newhouse.

After searching the garden to no avail, Mr Service, who has recently undergone chemotherapy, decided to walk up the steep hill behind the garden to try and locate the adventurous canine.

Planted with five foot high, immature trees, the



higher part of the hill however proved a tricky walking surface.

Mr Service explained: 'Once I reached the top of the hill, I was challenged again by old

Hew Service is delighted to be reunited with his Patterdale puppy Torsa.

bracken stalks full of briars about two foot deep which made going much harder than I had expected.

'After a couple of falls I became badly entangled, and stumbled into a large puddle, kneeling but unable to get to my feet again and the young trees were too small and flimsy to help me to rise.'

Mr Service called to his wife who by this time had grown concerned about her husband and walked part of the way up the hill herself. She immediately called 999 and police and an ambulance crew from Inveraray and Lochgilphead arrived promptly to the scene followed closely by fire and rescue and coastguard volunteers.

'They were under the mis-

understanding that I was in deep water rather than just kneeling in about six inches,' added Mr Service.

'The next problem was getting me back down though.'

'The first idea was to support me to walk down but when I was helped up my knees could not support my weight so a stretcher was produced by the coastguard and I was strapped in.

'I weigh 16 stone and am just over six foot tall and the path is very narrow and so it was very difficult for the party, which by now numbered around 20 men and women, some having to holding a heavy stretcher flat, to manoeuvre down.

'They were all spectacular and with such amazing kindness and humour.

'I will never be able to thank them enough.

'If I had been forced to spend a night on that hill it

would have been a totally different story.'

Mr Service's ordeal lasted around four hours, with the emergency services ensuring his safe transportation over some very challenging terrain to an awaiting ambulance.

For Torsa the pup, however, the trial lasted slightly longer, but to the massive relief of the Services, who had almost given up hope of finding her, she was discovered tied up in the nearby village last Wednesday evening.

'Barbara and I are thrilled to have our lovely puppy back with us. We still don't know what happened to her and she has been a bit jaded since her return but she is perking up a bit now.

'Again, we sincerely thank everyone who went out to look for her.

'A happy ending to what could have been altogether a different story.'

## FISH & CHIP SHOP

### NEW SEASON MENU

Bring your own wine

OPEN ALL DAY  
FROM 12PM



AWARD WINNING CHIPPY

Good Food Awards – Best Takeaway 2016

116 George St, Oban  
01631 567000  
obanfishandchipshop.co.uk

### STARTERS AND SHARERS

- WEST COAST KING SCALLOPS ROASTED IN HALF SHELL**
  - small 9.00
  - large 17.00

Vermouth, garlic and seaweed butter.
- CRISP FRIED BATTERED SALT AND PEPPER SQUID**
  - small 7.50
  - large 14.50

With a Singapore chilli sauce.
- OBAN BAY CHOWDER** 6.80

A light creamy style chowder with chunky pieces of local smoked haddock and cod.
- LANGOUSTINE, TOMATO AND AVOCADO COCKTAIL** 8.00

Topped with our own brandy laced marie-rose sauce.
- BUCKET OF WEST COAST GRAB CLAWS**
  - small 7.50
  - large 14.50

Served with wasabi mayo.

**OBAN FISH & CHIP SHOP RECOMMENDATION**

### FISH TEA SPECIAL

12.00

Thick fillet of haddock served with our own mushy peas, tartare sauce and fresh cut chips. (Tea, bread and butter all inclusive of price).

### FISHY MAINS

- SOUTH INDIAN GOD CURRY** 14.00

Burst of spices that enhance the fish. Served with plain basmati rice and yoghurt pot.
- POTATO TOPPED CREAMY FISH PIE** 13.70

Local salmon, North Atlantic prawns, cod and smoked haddock. Served with garden peas and crusty bread.
- PAN FRIED SALMON FILLET WITH HERB BUTTER** 14.50

From South Shian (near Benderloch). Served with creamy mash and today's vegetables.
- PAN FRIED HAKE, CHORIZO AND BEAN STEW** 14.60

Served with creamy mash potato.
- ROAST SEA BASS FILLETS WITH CAESAR SALAD** 14.90

Served with garlic bread or side of chips.
- TRIO OF SCAMPI** 14.70

Breaded monkfish, wholetail, salmon belly. Served with house salad and fresh cut chips.

### POPULAR MAINS

- OUR OWN STEAK AND ALE PIE** 12.20

Slow braised shoulder steak supplied by 'Grants of Tainuill'. Served with side of vegetables, creamy mash or chips.
- OUR OWN OVEN-BAKED LASAGNE** 10.80

Made in the traditional way with minced beef supplied by Grants of Tainuill. Served with garlic bread or fresh cut chips.
- ROAST CHICKEN BREAST** (CHIP SHOP STYLE) 9.70

Deep fried, crispy skin chicken. Served with chip shop gravy and fresh cut chips.
- LIGHTLY BATTERED OR STEAMED HAGGIS** 8.90

Our haggis comes from Jackson Butchers of Oban. Served with fresh cut chips or creamy mash.
- LIGHTLY BATTERED BLACK OR WHITE PUDDING** 8.90

Our puddings come from 'Grant's of Tainuill'. Served with fresh cut chips or creamy mash.
- LIGHTLY BATTERED STORNOWAY BLACK PUDDING** 9.00

Champion of Scottish black puddings and produced only on the Hebridean Island of Lewis. Served with fresh cut chips.
- LIGHTLY BATTERED PORK SAUSAGE (2)** (CHIP SHOP STYLE) 8.20

Served with fresh cut chips.
- SCOTCH PIE** 8.20

Chip shop style. Served with fresh cut chips.
- LIGHTLY BATTERED SMOKED PORK SAUSAGE** (CHIP SHOP STYLE) 8.30

Served with fresh cut chips.

full menu available on our website  
obanfishandchipshop.co.uk

### TRADITIONAL FISH 'N' CHIPS

Our haddock and cod is sourced from Norway where stocks are really healthy and certified sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. Lightly battered, baked or breadcrumb and served with fresh cut chips. All of our fried fish and chips are cooked in Rapeseed oil.

**PRIME HADDOCK FILLET AND CHIPS**  
regular 9.50  
large 13.20

**PRIME COD FILLET AND CHIPS**  
regular 10.00  
large 13.50

**LOCAL FISH SELECTION AND CHIPS**  
Hake 13.00  
Sole 12.50  
Sea Bass 13.50

OT



Clockwise from top left, Tracey Sage, Ann Wright and Marian Montgomery make wax wraps with Marlyn Turbitt [16\\_T11-waxwraps](#); Organisers Alex Honeyman and Kathleen Hannigan with the bra recycling box [16\\_T11-brarecycling](#); Taynuilt celebrates International Women's Day 2020 with a Friendship Cafe [16\\_T11\\_friendshipcafe](#); Art and writing came together at this creative landscape and memory session run by sculptor Lucy Gray and writer Leonie Charlton [16\\_t11\\_wordsandlandscapes](#); Women try their hand at bellringing with tuition from Muckairn Bellringers [16\\_T11\\_bellringing](#); Having fun with felt were Julie Watson, Sharon Spooner and Alice Campbell. [16\\_T11-felting](#)

# Taynuilt ladies celebrate Women's Day

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



Women in Taynuilt were having fun and feeling good at a special celebration on Saturday.

Thanks to funding, International Women's Day was marked with a packed programme of free activities and sessions honouring women's contribution to community life.

Money from Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm, Carraig Gheal Wind Farm and Taynuilt Medical Practice meant around 100 women of all ages gathered in the village hall and sports pavilion to try out something new for some – from Tai Chi to bell ringing, knit and nattering to felt

making, lino printing and lots more. An hour of yoga was on offer to help restore and rest all those who signed up for the session and for those with bags of energy to burn off, there was an orienteering maze to master out in the sports field.

There was also a collection point to recycle bras that will go off to start a new lease of life in developing countries and also raise funds for breast cancer research.

Organisers Kathleen Hannigan and Alex Honeyman, tutors and helpers all freely gave their time. Some of the workshops were tasters of activities already running in the village, hoping to recruit new interest.

The friendship cafe was busy all day and in the evening,

dancing and singing took over the hall for a social night.

'We're delighted so many people came through the door, we had about 100 here said Alex. 'It's been hugely creative with people trying out all sorts of arts and crafts, while others just came for cake and a chat. We're very grateful to our funders and to everyone who gave up their time to help.'

International Women's Day was also marked on Sunday in Seil when 10 women, one gutsy guy and two dogs turned up for a swimrise dip in the sea just before 7am, braving cold water and rain.

**MOREPHOTOS**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



**Get to know your pension options**

**If you are 50 or over with a personal or workplace (defined contribution) pension, you can get free, impartial guidance to help you understand how to take your money.**

A Pension Wise appointment is a conversation between you and a pension specialist. You'll talk about the options you have for taking your pension money. Your appointment will last around 45 to 60 minutes and we will explain your pension options and how each option is taxed, and give you next steps to take.

You can speak to us over the phone or face to face in your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Our guidance is impartial – we won't recommend any products or companies and won't tell you how to invest your money.

Call 0800 138 3944 to book your phone or face-to-face appointment, or go to [pensionwise.gov.uk](http://pensionwise.gov.uk) for more information.



# Meet Islay Coastguard's first lady of sea rescue

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Islay Coastguard team embraced International Women's Day by introducing its first female rescue officer.

Kate Hannett was born and raised on the island and when a call for new members for the Port Charlotte team went out last year, her interest was well and truly sparked.

'A good friend in mountain rescue and current team members gave me a bit of encouragement and here I am,' she said.

'I am so pleased I did it. It is still early days but I have been learning great new skills that I find cross over into other areas of my life.'

Since completing her



training in December, Kate has been on three shouts – a search and rescue, a potential medical transfer and a pyrotechnic report.

'Being in the team is something that I'm very proud of, but for me it is neither here nor there that I am female,' she said.

'However, I have five young nieces on the island so perhaps I can be part of their generation, and others, who see it as the norm for women

Kate Hannett joined the Port Charlotte team earlier this year.

to be in the coastguard.'

A former Port Charlotte Primary and Islay High School pupil Kate left the island to study when she was 17, returning at the age of 23 with the intention of only staying for a month.

'That was eight years ago now,' she exclaimed.

Kate, who works in both media communications and as a forager for a gin company, is now urging anyone of any gender who might be considering volunteering as a coastguard rescue officer to do it.

'It can be challenging but it is also very rewarding. Coastguard teams thrive on having a good mix of people

and skills from different backgrounds and occupations,' she said.

'We have great women working in the coastguard teams on our neighbouring islands, in our RNLI, ambulance crew, fire service and police.

'Regardless of gender, it's a combined effort across the island's emergency services and I'm proud to work alongside great women and men, many of whom I grew up with, for the safety and well-being of our island community.'

'It's great to be giving back to that community in such a valued way,' she added.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

  
**KILGRASTON**  
SCHOOL  
JUNIOR YEARS · SENIOR · SIXTH FORM

# Experience boarding at Kilgraston

**Book onto our Sixth Form boarding taster.**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

For more info contact: 01738 812 257  
or [admissions@kilgraston.com](mailto:admissions@kilgraston.com)

**Superb 2019 exam results**

- 60 % achieved an A grade at both Higher and Advanced Higher
- Over 63% go on to study STEM subjects at university



OT

# RNLI celebrates Women's Day

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Lifeboat stations took the time to recognise their female colleagues and friends on Sunday's International Women's Day.

Oban Lifeboat Station paid tribute to current crew members Leonie Mead and Lawrie MacMillan along with the many others, past and present, who have played important roles at the station over the years.

Leonie is one of RNLI's press officers and joined as a volunteer crew member in 2017, while the Oban station welcomed Lawrie from Portpatrick Lifeboat last year, having first joined the organisation as crew in 2013.

An Oban Lifeboat spokesperson added: "These aren't



the only women playing important roles at our station.

"There are many more dedicated women, playing important roles that aren't always immediately recognised or visible.

"From our volunteer fundraisers, who work hard behind the scenes arranging events and raising funds to keep the station going, to the wives, partners and family members that also drop everything and change

plans when the pagers go off. We thank you all."

Sentiments shared by their colleagues over the water at Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat, who have had at least one female crew member since the station reopened in 1990, with the newest recruit being Jenny Hampson, who joined the crew last year.

Go to <https://vimeo.com/322227648> to see some of Jenny's predecessors over the last 30 years.



Above: Leonie Mead, background, and Lawrie MacMillan from Oban RNLI Lifeboat; and left, former Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat personnel from left: Jane Griffith – one of the first, if not the first, female coxswain in the RNLI – Anne 'Cookie' Flavell (who sadly passed away a year ago), Jane Slade and Jay Butler.

## Oban FM goes green this Saturday

Oban FM's big funding year launches with St Patrick's Day celebrations this Saturday, March 14 as the community radio station Gets Ready for Rockfield and the creation of a new state-of-the-art radio station in the heart of the community.

Chairman Campbell Cameron said: "We are running all day from 8am on Saturday playing great music and encouraging folk to get involved by joining our membership scheme which has all sorts of advantages for our listeners.

"It's a great chance to get involved in Oban FM at a level that suits your purse, helps us get the Rockfield plans under way and you might win some great prizes too, thanks to local business."

All the station's presenters and DJs will be on hand throughout the day and there will be music and chat until midnight with great Irish-themed music. Go to 103.3fm, or [www.obanfm.scot](http://www.obanfm.scot)

THE OLD  
CLUBHOUSE

## WINTER OPENING HOURS 2020

January / February / March

**CLOSED** - Mon/Tues/Wed

**OPEN** - Thurs - Sun

From 11.00am for tea and coffee

12.00pm to 9.00pm for hot food

Bar open until midnight



## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



Fasting for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert while being tempted by the devil in disguise is not easy to emulate but as one of the many Christian traditions that has spread widely into secular and everyday life, the keeping of Lent in some way, is good for the mind and body.

Whether for Lent or for any other varying length of time, it is good to exercise our control over the natural desire for instant gratification, but observing this in a specific way during a specified period that is widely recognised, makes it easier to focus the mind on such self-denial or penance.

For a number of times over the years I've stopped drinking alcohol for this period. I know many people who abstain totally from alcohol and in many ways I think they have the right idea. There is no doubt that drinking alcohol is bad for our health, it costs a fortune, it loses us many days of productive work and its knock-on effects are very expensive and damaging for society generally. However, for the time being my enjoyment of a good dram and also of the type of human interaction that can go with it continues to out-weigh the far more sensible option of long-

term self-prohibition. Stopping for Lent is a good exercise and reminder that the choice can always be made, so again this year as they say in Glasgow, 'A'm aff it!'

Coupled with staying off the deoch, I also decided to run five kilometres every day over every day - no Sundays off - from Ash Wednesday, which was February 26, till Easter Sunday on April 12. The 46 days will amount to a total of 230 kilometres. This small endeavour combines three strands that all bind together to create the motivation to see it through. Firstly, it's a good practice in self-discipline, secondly, it is good for long-term health and fitness, and thirdly and most importantly it gives me a chance for doing some fundraising for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust.

Since Eilidh's Trust was set up, we've done something each year to join them and assist with fundraising. Because of the timing of gigs this year, the Edinburgh and Manchester running events that they take part in are not going to be possible for me to join, so the 5k a day seemed a reasonable alternative to raise some

money for them through sponsorship. My wife Ania and Eilidh's Trust founders Iagan MacNeil and Suzanne White are also joining me in the 5k a day challenge.

Suzanne and the other trustees, and all who are involved in the trust, put a huge amount of effort into keeping it going and over time it can be difficult to maintain the energy and support of others when so many people have already given generously. They've achieved much in raising the funds to erect a permanent memorial to Eilidh on Barra and are now doing wonderful work to encourage and support young musicians far and wide who will take Eilidh's memory long into the future through the music of generations to come. They need and deserve as much continued support as possible.

So far I'm managing to struggle through the running and I'm just about to head out on my 14th 5k. There's a good south-westerly gale blowing with accompanying lashing rain, so it is not going to be too pleasant!

If you would like to sponsor me, you can do so through a link on the Skipinnish website or my own Facebook page.

# Oban clears the decks for its third big spring clean

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Clubs, businesses and individuals are being urged to pull on their Marigolds at the end of the month and join in the third Oban Spring Clean.

Keep Oban Beautiful (KOB), which is organising the event, would like to encourage many more residents to get involved this year, either by joining in with groups which were active last year, or by getting together with others in their area to 'pick a patch' to concentrate on.

Clean-ups will be happening around the town and surrounding villages towards the end of March with the main event taking place on March 28 and 29.

Keep Oban Beautiful founder Maurice Wilkins said: 'The 2018 and 2019 spring cleans were a great success and we



hope that 2020 will be better than ever.

'It's a great opportunity for everyone to pull together and make sure that the town is looking good for the beginning of the main tourist season and encourage community spirit and pride in Oban and the surrounding area.'

The project this year is being backed by BID4Oban which has funded a brand new street banner for KOB which will be hung across George Street.

BID chief executive Andrew Spence added: 'Oban Spring Clean is an excellent opportunity for businesses in the town centre and beyond to join in with a community

venture which ultimately benefits everyone.'

Mr Spence will be encouraging businesses to join in by cleaning up around their premises while groups such as Scouts and Guides, churches, schools, beach cleaners, community councils and even Argyll and Bute councillors are getting involved too. Mr

**BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence and Keep Oban Beautiful founder Maurice Wilkins with the new banner.**

Wilkins added: 'There are plenty of communal places to work on and opportunities to make good use of some of the rubbish.'

'Rotting leaves that create a hazard for pedestrians could be spread carefully on suitable nearby planted areas rather than leave them to be collected with the bags of rubbish.'

'Nobody will complain if anyone fancies a bit of street weeding too.'

'Most important of all, however, is getting the message out that dropping litter or throwing it out of car windows is a very antisocial activity.'

'Let's hope all the publicity will make an impression on the people who drop the litter in the first place – one day maybe no clean-ups will be needed.'

Claire Rizos, from KOB, will be coordinating the event and can be contacted either by email at c.rizos@btinternet.com or on 07891 543540, while HQ for the BID office in Stevenson Street from where Claire will be lending litter-pickers, bags and gloves.

A note of where groups will be leaving filled bags will also be taken at HQ to be passed on and collected by Argyll and Bute Council.

Various businesses have also been contacted with a request to sponsor the event by providing equipment.

Everyone can do their bit to Keep Oban Beautiful.

## NOW RECRUITING FAST TRACK YOUR LOCHABER BUSINESS WITH PATHFINDER ACCELERATOR

WE ARE SEEKING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH BIG IDEAS  
AND A FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND HEALTH.

Pathfinder Accelerator provides a challenging environment for you to grow your business.

- Weekly sessions plus extended support from business coaches
- Pressure test your ideas and develop your business skills
- Make valuable connections

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 29 MARCH 2020

Next cohort taking place in Fort William in spring/summer 2020.

JOIN OUR TASTER SESSION

18 MARCH 2020 IN FORT WILLIAM

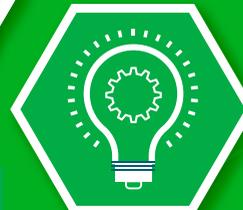
Meet our coaches and find out more about the support available:

[hie.co.uk/pathfinder-fort-william](http://hie.co.uk/pathfinder-fort-william)

To find out more or request an application form email [pathfinder@hient.co.uk](mailto:pathfinder@hient.co.uk) or visit [hie.co.uk/pathfinder](http://hie.co.uk/pathfinder)



“The skillset required to pitch a product was not our forte but we've been given the tools and the confidence to showcase our offering.”  
Jenny Johnstone, Cawdor Forestry



OT

# BID4Oban optimistic for the future of town

## £1.96m for roads pledged

by Iona Young  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Andy Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, remains confident, despite a number of businesses shutting down recently, for the future of the town centre.

Many high streets have suffered in the past couple of years, with more than five shops a week closing across Scotland.

The difference in Oban is an initiative making sure shops are reopening straight away.

While a number of retail outlets in the town are closing, Andy is keen to reassure people that it is more a matter of changing hands.

He said: 'The Fonehouse has closed but the unit is due to reopen, though I'm not able to tell you what as yet. The shop that used to be Nancy Black's in Argyll Square, just across



**BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence is optimistic about Oban's high street, with many businesses changing hands, rather than closing altogether.**

'These are all exciting ventures and compared to other towns, we have nothing like the number of empty shops – and long may that continue.'

Seaside towns can struggle during the off-season when there are fewer tourists but this doesn't faze Oban as it is attracting more visitors all year round with events such as Oban Winter Festival in November.

The festival committee organises a range of events to boost the numbers coming to the town. In turn, this extends the season into the so-called shoulder months.

One aspect promoting local businesses, that is unique

across Scotland and possibly the UK, is the Love Oban vouchers.

Andy said one of the key things to promote business at quieter times of year was to offer a discount, encouraging people to buy them so they are shopping locally.

When somebody buys a Love Oban voucher, they can only be used in Oban, so the money stays in the town.

Sales of Love Oban vouchers have skyrocketed since they began, with 2019 being a record year for them.

Andy said: 'The month of December was the biggest month ever for Love Oban vouchers.'

'We took more in December than the whole first year we were selling them, so that is an indication of what you can do.'

BID4Oban's annual general meeting takes place in March.

The planned capital roads programme for 2020/21 includes an allocation of £1.96m for Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The programme will focus on a mix of carriageway resurfacing schemes that deliver the best value for money for the roads' network. It does not simply concentrate on roads in the worst condition, but also treats roads at an earlier stage to stop them deteriorating.

Surface dressing schemes are used when the skid resistance of the road surface is poor or the road surface needs to be sealed before it fails. This helps to reduce the amount of reactive maintenance for potholes.

Progressing schemes that provide the best rate of return maximises benefit to the traveling public and keeps Argyll and Bute moving.

Go to [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) for more.

## TAX YEAR-END PLANNING

# USE IT OR LOSE IT



Each tax year presents an opportunity to utilise allowances and exemptions that would otherwise be lost after 5 April.

By joining together your goals and our expertise, we can help you reach future financial security.

### ARGYLL WEALTH CONSULTANTS LTD

Partner Practice of St. James's Place Wealth Management

Tel: 01631 707010 | 07793 810749

Email: [russell.anderson@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:russell.anderson@sjpp.co.uk)

[www.sjpp.co.uk/argyll](http://www.sjpp.co.uk/argyll)



ST. JAMES'S PLACE  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are dependent on individual circumstances.

The Partner Practice is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website [www.sjpp.co.uk/products](http://www.sjpp.co.uk/products). The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

# Finlo is in pole position for inaugural professor's lecture

by Harry Williamson  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A member of Oban's lifeboat crew is to give his inaugural lecture at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) after becoming a professor.

Finlo Cottier is a physical oceanographer for the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage.

He became a professor in April of 2019 at UHI and is one of the UK's leading Arctic researchers. He joined UHI in 2001 and leads the university's BSc Marine Science degree and his work has allowed students to go on to specialise in arctic studies, oceanography and robotics.

He has also already been awarded a professorship by the University in Tromsø in Norway, where he leads the international £2 million



Finlo Cottier became a professor last year.

Arctic PRIZE project, which is studying how that region is impacted by climate change.

Prof Cottier, who grew up in Port St Mary on the Isle of Man, has been a member

of the Oban RNLI crew since 2001, spending more than 500 hours on the lifeboat and has assisted with more than 270 call-outs.

The Oban crew offered their support to their much-valued colleague. A spokesperson said: 'Finlo continues to be an invaluable member of our team and we would like to extend our congratulations to him on his professorship, from all at Oban Lifeboat Station.'

Prof Cottier was one of the lifeboat crew who were presented with the RNLI's Excellence in Volunteering Award last November.

Speaking about his forthcoming lecture, Professor Cottier said: 'The polar regions are special places – geographically, scientifically and culturally.'

'Since starting a PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute

in 1995, I've had the privilege of working in the Arctic and the Antarctic with both a scientific and an educational role.

'During this lecture, I'll touch on some of the highlights of my time in the polar regions, things we've discovered, the opportunities still to be explored and, most importantly, the people I've shared these experiences with.'

Prof Cottier's lecture, entitled I'm going out, I may be some time – research and education in the polar regions – will take place at SAMS UHI at Dunbeg from 5.30pm on Wednesday March 25. Attendees can also join by video conference.

Professor Cottier will be available for audience questions afterwards and the lecture will be followed by tea and coffee.

## Bin uplift times are now online

Argyll and Bute residents are now using a range of digital options to check when their bins are due to be uplifted, helping the environment by significantly cutting down on paper, and also making financial savings.

Previously 48,000 paper calendars were delivered to homes throughout the area.

This year, anyone who was unable to make use of the internet to check when their bins would be uplifted was able to request a printed calendar. More than 3,000 people took up the offer.

That means 96 per cent of people are using alternative ways to check when their bins need to go out.

For the bin day uplift page, go to: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/bin-collection>

Or go to the MyAccount Page <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/myaccount-register>



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an

# OPEN DAYS

@WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI  
FORT WILLIAM

FRI 20 & SAT 21 MARCH  
11-3pm

WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT  
OUR MANY COURSES IN ADVENTURE STUDIES,  
CREATIVE ARTS, COMPUTING, HOSPITALITY,  
CHILD/SOCIAL CARE, BUSINESS, MARITIME,  
CONSTRUCTION AND RURAL SKILLS - PLUS HNC/HND/  
DEGREES THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS.

[www.whc.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.whc.uhi.ac.uk)  
01397 874000

# BUSINESS NEWS

## Develop a holiday letting business on beautiful Gigha

The community-owned Isle of Gigha is the most southerly and one of the most beautiful of the Hebridean Islands.

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is the community organisation which manages the assets of the island for the community. It is now seeking a new operator for its well-established and profitable holiday cottage business on the island.

There are five holiday cottages for lease, giving someone the opportunity to develop the business, support tourism, be part of the island community and most importantly, be their own boss.

The cottages have been in community ownership since the buy-out in 2002. The trust and its subsidiary company own a range of strategic tourism assets across the island, including the Boathouse Restaurant, Gigha Hotel, Achamore Gardens, pontoon and mooring facilities and an activity centre.

Gigha is three miles west of the Kintyre peninsula, less than three hours' drive from Glasgow and is serviced by hourly CalMac 20-minute sailings. To find out more, visit [www.gigha.org.uk](http://www.gigha.org.uk).

# Firms are offered fast-track sessions

A free programme to support businesses to grow is open for new applications.

Developed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the Pathfinder Accelerator programme is open to existing and start-up companies in the engineering, technology, IT, health and life sciences sectors.

The six-month programme is designed to help companies evaluate their business model, build a network of contacts and pressure test ideas. The support provided will reduce the time and expense it can take to test the commercial viability of new ideas.

A taster session is arranged for Wednesday March 18 at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William.

HIE has partnered with The Leadership Factory, which will deliver the Pathfinder Accelerator in Fort William.

The taster session starts at 12.30pm and will provide information about the programme, materials and time frames. It will provide an opportunity to meet the coaches and ask questions.

Participants will benefit from experienced business coaches, tailored workshops and masterclasses as well as the opportunity to



**Karrie Marshall, director of Creativity in Care.** Photograph: Paul Campbell, HIE

engage with life sciences and technology experts. Further support can be accessed throughout the course. There will be six face-to-face sessions over 12 weeks with additional remote sessions and coaching weeks.

The programme will be followed by a further three months' coaching and mentoring, with opportunities to develop contacts, source

funding and plan for future growth.

Previous participant Karrie Marshall, director and founder of Creativity in Care, said: 'Pathfinder provided me with an opportunity to test ideas and connect with potential customers that I had not even considered. It has helped me realise my inner business self. Since Pathfinder, I can feel the momentum building and I have secured more contracts for Creativity in Care.'

The Pathfinder Accelerator programme helps SMEs in the Highland Council area to improve their businesses through innovation and forms part of the HIE-led Northern Innovation Hub (NIH).

The hub is a set of carefully targeted projects to strengthen innovation and increase competitiveness among businesses across the Highland Council area.

The NIH project received £11m from the UK Government and £1.7m ERDF support as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal. The deal is a joint £315 million initiative supported by both the UK and Scottish governments.

Find out more information about applying to take part at [www.hie.co.uk/pathfinder](http://www.hie.co.uk/pathfinder).

### FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Protection Mortgages  
Pensions Investments

**ARGYLL  
FINANCIAL**

#### Argyll Financial Services Limited

Dunollie Halls, Dunollie Rd, Oban PA34 5PH t: 01631 562525  
27 Ferry Brae, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7DJ t: 01369 706198

f: 01369 705691 m: 07775870721

[www.argyllfinancial.co.uk](http://www.argyllfinancial.co.uk)

### BUSINESS ADVISERS

**RA Clement Associates**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

'Put your **BUSINESS** in safe hands'



[www.raclement.co.uk](http://www.raclement.co.uk)  
[mail@raclement.co.uk](mailto:mail@raclement.co.uk)

Fort William: 3 Cameron Square, PH33 6AJ • Tel: 01397 700171  
Oban: 5 Argyll Square, Argyll PA34 4AZ • Tel: 01631 562643  
Payroll: Abacus Services, Oban: 8 High Street, PA34 4BG • Tel: 01631 568272

### PRINTING

**Corporate stationery**

Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**krisp  
print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Main Street/Longrow South,  
Campbeltown PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: [staff@krispprint.co.uk](mailto:staff@krispprint.co.uk)  
[www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

## Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS



### Porches, Extensions, Roofline, Windows & Doors

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550  
[sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk](mailto:sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk)  
[www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk](http://www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk)



### MacQueen Self Storage Ltd.

Unit 7A2, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG  
Tel: (01631) 564848 Fax: (01631) 570627



Steel container hire and sales.  
Clean, Dry, Accessible 24 hours.  
Lorry loader hire.

Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG  
**(01631) 564848**  
[info@macqueenbros.com](mailto:info@macqueenbros.com)

Send us your business news by emailing [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or call 01631 568000

# Apprentices learn to love being all at sea

by Roslyn Scott  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

An apprenticeship programme run by the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) offers participants the chance to travel to parts of Scotland many can only dream of.

The deck rating and engineering apprenticeship promises no two days are the same, with apprentices travelling to a remote lighthouse in the Outer Hebrides one day, and the next carrying out buoy work in the middle of the North Sea.

Stuart MacBrayne and Cameron MacMillan are the latest recruits to the scheme. Both are in their final year of the two-year apprenticeship and, when not at sea, attend City of Glasgow College Maritime Education and Training.

Cameron, as soon as he saw the apprenticeship advertised, knew it was for him. He said: 'Before joining the Northern Lighthouse

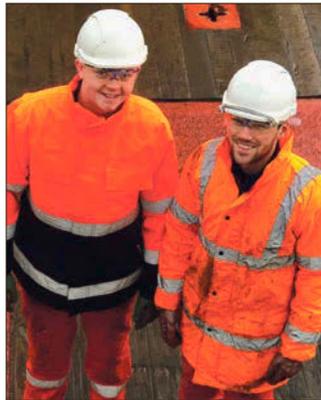
Board I spent four years working at Dunstaffnage Marina, just outside Oban.

'I worked there part-time when I was still at school and then full-time after leaving school. It was here that I got a real feel for the industry and learned the skills for a career at sea.

'After a few years at Dunstaffnage, I decided it was time to move on and start my career at sea, and when I saw the job opportunity with NLB, I knew it was for me.

'I'm really enjoying my apprenticeship and have progressed my day-to-day skills needed for this job massively. Everyone has been very helpful and good to me and I'm learning so many different skills and techniques which vastly improve my learning.'

Stuart said his Argyll background inspired his desire to work at sea. He explained: 'Growing up just outside Campbeltown, close to the Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse, I



Cameron MacMillan, left, and Stuart MacBrayne.

have always had an interest in life at sea and lighthouses.

'I studied at Campbeltown Grammar School before entering full-time employment with the local fuel merchants and shipping agent. After spending more than five years working as a fuel transport clerk, I decided it was time to move on and start my

career at sea. I'm really enjoying my apprenticeship with NLB. During my first two months at sea I had visited more of Scotland than I ever had before. One of my highlights has to be my trip to London on board Pharos for London International Shipping Week – sailing up the Thames was a once in a lifetime experience.

'And another was visiting Hyskeir Lighthouse. This was my first trip off the ship onto a lighthouse and first time flying in a helicopter.

'I would highly recommend an apprenticeship and working at sea to other young people. I have developed skills which will last a lifetime whilst working in a close-knit team and building working relationships with all my colleagues.'

To find out about apprenticeships with the Northern Lighthouse Board keep an eye on its website [www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk) or email [enquiries@nlb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nlb.org.uk)

## Loch Fyne Oysters hits milestone retail deal

Loch Fyne Oysters has announced the expansion of its supermarket deal with Waitrose to include Bradan Orach smoked salmon.

The smoked salmon will be available in nearly 130 UK stores to add to Waitrose's current offering of Loch Fyne oysters and mussels by the Argyll-based seafood specialist.

Cameron Brown, managing director at Loch Fyne Oysters, said: 'The fact that Bradan Orach smoked salmon is now available in Waitrose stores is incredibly exciting for us.

'We're very proud to expand upon our existing partnership with Waitrose.'

Bradan Orach is a smoked salmon produced in small batches.

After being dry cured with salt only, the fish is smoked for longer than usual in traditional kilns.

Since the launch of Loch Fyne's partnership with Waitrose just over a year ago, when Loch Fyne products went into 60 stores, stockists have more than doubled as a result of demand.

Loch Fyne Oysters' seafood is stocked in luxury retailers including Selfridges and is served at Formula One events.



*Going the extra mile for you*

**Nationwide delivery service**

Serving Highlands and Islands and West/Central Scotland  
**Daily service from Glasgow and Argyll**  
 Deliveries and collections from all over Britain  
 Local staff understand the needs of a local community

Building 120A, MACC Business Park, Campbeltown, PA28 6NU

**We now have a depot in Linwood which can receive goods**  
*If you order online and they don't deliver to your address give us a call.*  
*We can collect from our Linwood address at favourable rates.*  
*We are in Ikea everyday for next day delivery to all Argyll and Bute.*

**Please call 01586 554270 for more details**  
 Fax: 01586 550461 Email: [enquiries@amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk)  
[www.amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk](http://www.amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk)




**COMPETITIVE PRICES**  
**HIGH QUALITY STAUFF HOSES**



**24 HOUR CALLOUT 24/7 COVERAGE**  
 Across Argyll and the West Coast of Scotland

07766 513 585 • [info@pmg-services.com](mailto:info@pmg-services.com) • [www.pmg-services.com](http://www.pmg-services.com)

Construction • Forestry • Quarry • Static Plant • Agricultural • Marine



**MAKE THE SWITCH**  
 Switch to our digital edition and save money

**The Oban Times**  
**LOCHABER TIMES**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## The legend of Bruce's brooch

by Valerie Forsyth  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

King Robert Bruce's brooch has become legendary in the area around Oban.

For many years it has been in the safe keeping of the MacDougall family. John MacDougall, Lord of Lorne, was related by marriage to John Comyn, or Red Comyn, the Guardian of Scotland.

In February 1306, Bruce murdered Comyn at Greyfriars Church in Dumfries, causing the MacDougalls to join sides with the English forces. Alexander of Lorne and Bruce fought at Dalrigh, the king's field near Tyndrum, in August that same year.

A short, fierce battle ensued and, legend has it, it was during this time Bruce's brooch was snatched. It was torn from his breast by a MacDougall when they were engaged in hand-to-hand combat.

However, Alexander of Lorne lost his footing and would have been killed had it not been for two clansmen. They grabbed the king's plaid and dragged him off him. Bruce turned his attention to them and killed them, but MacDougall survived as Bruce retreated, having seen more men coming towards him.

During the Civil War in the mid-17th century, Gylen Castle on the island of Kerarra was plundered, burned and seized by a detachment of the Cromwellian army sent to Argyllshire in 1647 under General Leslie. At this time Bruce's brooch was held at Gylen and fell into the hands of Campbell of Inverawe, then serving in the unit of Colonel James Montgomery's Regiment of Foot.

The brooch remained in the care of the Campbells until the 1820s when it was sold at auction in London by family members of the Campbells of Bragleen to General Duncan Campbell of Lochnell. He had it restored and presented it back to the MacDougalls in October 1824. It is said to be the finest specimen of Scottish-Scandinavian art in Britain and is one of Scotland's most important historical artefacts.



# Favourite old sign

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Many districts in Argyll have their own signature songs. Morvern has several, or should I say used to in the days when village hall ceilidhs were more common than they are today.

The most well known is Farewell to Fiunary, composed by the Reverend Norman Macleod (1783-1862). A close second comes Duncan Macpherson's Gaelic masterpiece, Song to Morvern, composed when he was exiled in New Zealand. It has 14 verses in which the bard remembers some of his favourite places in the parish. He writes: 'The healthy, pure water of Beinn Iadain running down to the lochs of numerous salmon; fine it was to fish for them on Gearr-Abhain [River Aline] up by the bounds of Achranich', and of, 'Fiunary of renowned noblemen with whom the Queen often conversed; there was not another family in Scotland who could match you in preaching from a pulpit [the Macleod ministers one of whom was private chaplain to Queen Victoria]; your castles were regal and strong, Ardtornish and Kinlochaline, Killundine, Dun Fhin and Dun Ban and the high, proud gables of Dungallon. Are not the two sides of Loch Sunart beautiful? Sunny green Strontian, Laudale, The Glen [Glencripesdale] and Rahoy where the red-haired doctor [John MacLachlan (1804-1874), bard and physician] was a babe'.

Duncan Macpherson was born at Rahoy. He was the eldest son of John and Sarah MacPherson who came to Morvern from Ardnamurchan when Sir James Riddell of Caister, Norfolk, began evicting his tenants after the Napoleonic War. Following the death of his father, Duncan moved to Glasgow. From there he went to New Zealand, about 1880, to join three uncles who had settled in South Island when they were cleared from Ardnamurchan in 1864. Duncan married and settled on a sheep and cattle station in Otago until the death of his wife by drowning fording the great Matukituki River. Duncan died at Mount Aspiring on 22 January 1931 when he was struck by a train. According to his descendents, Duncan maintained a lively interest in the Gaelic language and composed a number of songs, some of which were published in The Oban Times in the 1880s.

Duncan's song about Morvern has become a favourite with a number of Gaelic singers on



television, although they murder it by leaving out so many verses. A Gaelic song is essentially a story or a saga and if not rendered in full its meaning is completely lost. I was pleased, therefore, to hear Morvern's own Riona Whyte, from Fiunary, sing the whole song in Gaelic on the radio a few weeks ago. And what a lovely job she made of it.

Morvern suffered very badly during the time of the great Highland Clearances, when the landlords became eviction-happy in much the same way as their successors have become today with their tree-planting, only in 2020 it is the sheep, deer, cattle, shepherds and stalkers who are being forced off the hills. In 1831 the population of Morvern was 2,137. Today there are fewer than 10 of their descendents to be found among a population of less than 350. The clearances took care of more than 800 people. Who were they, what were their feel-

ings as they prepared to leave the land of their forefathers? The answers to these questions are not to be found in any official records, but in the homely verses of the local bards and songwriters which may explain why there were so many of them in such a small area.

Third on the list of popular Morvern's anthems is A Mhorbhairne Ghlas nan Tulaichean - Green Morvern of the Hills, composed by Donald Mackinnon.

Known locally as 'Domhnall Riadh' [Gaelic Red Donald on account of the colour of his hair], he was born about 1830 at Rhemore on the Sound of Mull looking across to Mull. His family originated from Lochdonhead and were thought to be descendents of that ancient line, the Mackinnon's of Mishnish. Little is known about his youth other than a story told to me by the late Angus Henderson, Tobermory's blacksmith, of his courtship of a

# HIGHLAND FASTENERS LTD

## Did you know we do repairs?



Makita

HITACHI  
POWER TOOLS

Paslode

DEWALT

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll  
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com



In Association with  
Turley Bros.  
Concrete Tanks

Turley  
Bros.

# MBC

MARTIN BOYLE CONTRACTING LTD

## SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

Do you need your tank checked? Need an installation quote? We're here to help.

CALL: 01546 603989  
info@mbcargyll.com • mbcargyll.com

Accredited Installer • Scottish Water Approved Contractor • SEPA & CHAS Registered

# ature songs



**Old Rhemore Cottage, home of Donald Mackinnon, one of Morvern's well known Gaelic bards.** Photograph supplied by Iain Thornber.

danger that you will become a wilderness. Ho ro, it is the cause of my dejection to look at your hills down beside the Sound of Mull where the ships with tall masts sail. It was your inconstant proprietors who left the tenants without an ancestral abode and allowed people who did not belong to you to dwell in the place. You were the land of mountains and heroes, renowned in history; a son of yours was never heard to be put to shame by an enemy.

'There was a time when great were your castles where kings could be quartered, though wretched today the rabble who are strutting about in their place. The small band who have remained, precarious is their condition under the wings of the London birds in the black wood of Lochaline. [This is a punning allusion to the family of Octavius Smith, the only English landowner in the parish at the time. Smith first bought land at the head of Loch Aline in 1845 where, at Doire Dubh, he resided and later built a large mansion which he called Ardtornish Tower.] They used to call you the lands of woods and there was a time when you deserved it, though now your thickets have been stripped bare by the ones with the white faces [the great flocks of Cheviot sheep].'

When Donald was still a young man he had an accident from which he never fully recovered. He died about 1860 and is thought to have been buried in Tobermory. His other compositions included; Song to Old Kate of Duart; My Trim and Shapely Girl; The Stirk; Alas, Woe is Me; Do You Hear Me, My Lass? and The Lochaline Packet [the mail boat which ran to and from Loch Aline to Fishnish].

Donald Mackinnon's work is highly regarded by Gaelic scholars for its style and purity. Had he lived to a ripe old age we might have known more about the language of the indigenous folk and what was really happening in Morvern in the second half of the 19th century from his able pen rather than that of the colourful summer migrants belonging to the 'big house'.

**In our March 5 edition of Morvern Line the photograph of the MacAllisters was courtesy of John Wilshire, and not John Wallace as stated. We apologise for the error. The photograph of Angus MacIntyre was courtesy of Lorn MacIntyre.**

young dairymaid, 'Black' Annie MacMillan from Knock, Mull. Seemingly she jilted him and he responded with a bitter and coarse composition. Deeply offended, her family set about suing him.

On the advice of the Rev John Macleod of Fiunary, the author took himself off to Inveraray to have himself officially 'cried' as a bard at the Old Inveraray market cross, stopping the angry MacMillans in their tracks. In so doing he was, apparently, the last man in Argyll to have enjoyed this privilege. Donald Mackinnon is remembered in Mull for his song, Banais Mor Chameron - Big Cameron's Wedding. One of these Camerons, a friend of the bard, lived at Alltreich, near Scallastle, was to be married but Mackinnon didn't get invited to the wedding - hence the song.

'Green Morvern of the hills, you bear the appearance of sadness and sorrow; there is great

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



**We go back this week to 1996 and two school photographs, albeit of a very different nature. Above are youngsters from Oban High School on a fun run. How many can you name? Below are, we think, the new primary one intake at Caol.**



THE NORTH ARGYLL EVENTIDE HOME was opened by the people of Oban, in 1955, to provide a caring environment for the elderly of the area.

North Argyll Home is run by a local, independent, not-for-profit, charity and we rely on the generosity of local people, trusts, grant-making bodies and legacies to help ensure that we are able to continue our vital work.

If you would like to help or for more information please contact:

**North Argyll Eventide Home Association Ltd.**

North Argyll House, Connel Rd, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG  
01631 562168 info@northargyllhouse.org

**Mackay and Co**  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors  
Est. 1979  
[www.mackayandco.net](http://www.mackayandco.net)

**When setting up your business, we can help advise on the best structure and register you with HMRC.**

**To make an enquiry call David Ross CA on 01631 294160 or email [info@mackayandco.net](mailto:info@mackayandco.net)**

**15 LOCHSIDE STREET, OBAN, PA34 4HP**

OT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Wishing Colonsay well in its search for key professionals

The search on Colonsay for a new head teacher at the island's school and a new GP has garnered much attention, including from the BBC's *The One Show*.

While the campaign to find the right people to replace Gill Mackenzie and Dr Jan Brooks and Dr David Binnie have drawn considerable public interest, there is also a very serious side to this.

Our island communities are fragile and vulnerable, and it does not take much to worsen that scenario. High among the priorities for keeping island communities viable are having doctors and schools.

Luckily for Colonsay, Ms Mackenzie has said she will remain in her post until a suitable replacement can be found, and Dr Brooks and Dr Binnie have no plans to leave the island.

Colonsay is a thriving island at the moment but it is important for its future that these key individuals can be replaced. We wish the islanders well in their search for such vital professionals.

## Anastasija deserves help for charity work

Dental therapist Anastasija Malove is well known to many of the patients she treats at Oban Dental Care in Lochside Street but she soon will be spreading the knowledge of her expertise to the young people of Morocco.

Anastasija, as we report this week, is joining a team of therapists from a charity called Dental Mavericks travelling to the country to help disadvantaged young people to improve their dental health.

An online campaign to help raise funds to pay for Anastasija to volunteer has been sent up. We would encourage as many people as possible to support her.

## We should avoid farmed fish products to help marine life

Your report (*The Oban Times*, February 27) is headlined: *Objectors up in arms over fish farm plan*.

Of course we are opposed to SEPA's intentions to greenlight bigger fish farms in our inshore waters.

The sandy beach at Ganavan is already under plenty of pressure. We really do not need even bigger salmon-farming pens at the Dunstaffnage site in the mouth of Ardmucknish Bay – or anywhere else.

This was the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's first recommendation in its Report on Salmon Farming in Scotland, published in November 2018: 'If the [salmon farming] industry is to grow, the committee considers it to be essential that [the industry] addresses and identifies solutions to the environmental and fish health challenges it faces as a priority.'

I acknowledge some improvements. However, nearly 15 months after the report was published, we are facing the planet's biggest man-made environmental and humanitarian crisis. And still the loyalties of our politicians seem to lie with big corporations, whose interests have for far too long been focused on the interests of greedy shareholders. Politicians and multinational corporations continue to show a lack of care and concern for our environment that verges on the criminal.

In view of the many and well-documented worldwide risks that fish and crustacean farming pose to wild fish and crustaceans, and to inshore waters, we would do well to avoid all farmed fish products, including salmon.

Margret Powell-Joss, Oban.

## Correcting curious economic arguments on independence

I am responding to Jeff Darby of Kilmore's letter (February 27) with its somewhat unusual grasp of economics.

First, contrary to his comments, Scotland runs and continues to run a substantially higher fiscal deficit than the rest of the UK. In the fiscal year 2016-17, it was of the order of 8.3 per cent of GDP (Scottish Government figures quoted in their own Growth Commission paper chaired by Andrew Wilson). The UK fiscal deficit was of the order of two per cent in this period.

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to showcase these each week.

If you have a photograph you would like published, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor,

PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph comes from Danny Owen who said: 'I was visiting

The gap is crudely filled by the Barnett formula. It is therefore simply not true to say that Scotland subsidises England. There is nothing either peculiar or sinister about the Barnett formula; it is a social solidarity payment to areas of higher need which results in redistributive levels of public expenditure vis a vis tax revenues from richer to poorer areas.

Mr Darby correctly points out that Scotland is one of the richest areas of the UK, a tribute one might think to the redistributionist effect over time of Barnett enhanced public expenditure and a sign perhaps that Scotland is hardly discriminated against in UK terms.

So why, then, do we need enhanced levels of public expenditure vis a vis the UK? The an-



# Inspiration starts here

THE  
BATHROOM  
SHOWROOM

7e Glengallan Road, Oban  
Tel: 01631 567640

CITY  
PLUMBING  
SUPPLIES

NOW Open Saturdays 8am - 12noon  
[the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk](http://the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk)

**Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!**

Volunteers now required in Oban.  
Call **01546 60 5550** or email [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk) to find out more.



## Beachd Ailein

**ALLAN CAMPBELL**

[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



ment this expenditure burden is shared across a unitary state. An independent Scotland would have to shoulder it on its own.

Mr Darby notes projects such as HS2 from which Scotland receives no benefit. Central governments of whatever hue have a regrettable love of large expenditure projects on their doorstep. When one travels, as I do, on the spanking new Queensferry crossing or on the vastly enhanced Glasgow/Edinburgh link and then arrives at the broken and woefully underinvested transport links of Argyll, one cannot but wonder if the UK Government has spawned a little imitator in Holyrood?

It is deeply to be regretted that Argyll and Bute Council cannot take up some of the slack but its own budgets have been part of the 4.7 per cent real decline vis a vis the overall Scottish Government budget which, coupled with increasing central directions as to how funds should be spent, has done such huge damage to councils' abilities to fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

Perhaps a confrontation of the hard fiscal realities of independence might make for a more honest debate on its merits or demerits.

**Hugh Andrew,**  
Newington Road, Edinburgh.

### Needs of Western Isles residents are being ignored

It comes as no surprise that the money allocated by the government is not going to be used for the benefits of us islanders, and indeed it has now and in recent years come to the point that the general public have lost all trust and faith in both the council and the health board.

It is apparent that they simply do not pursue the local folk's wishes. Good examples are the dental services and the botched game that's being pressed on to the good folk of Barra, who have seen through the proposed misty mire.

My mathematics tell me that a blind eye is upon an out of order situation here and that no proper action has been taken to have quotas put on the numbers that swamp our isles annually.

Gaelic language education and even our way of life have suffered much due to politics and to the degree it is now toxic to our lifestyle and welfare. We are constantly being ignored, and now have lost any confidence in the people who are supposed to be taking care of us on these Western Isles.

**Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir, Uibhist a Deas.**

Thèid sannt os cionn na h-aithne! Seanfhacal fìor eile air a bhonntachadh air eòlas agus fianais dhaoine thar linn-tean, agus chan eil an dealbh a tha e a' toirt dhuinn air atharrachadh! Bidh cuimhne thaitneach aig a' mhòr-chuid againn a thogadh ann am bailtean croitearachd air co-obrachadh càirdeil an t-sluaigh agus mar a bhiodh lionmhorachd nan làmh a' dèanamh na h-obrach aotrom! B' e pàirt den adhbhar gun robh an co-chomann sin cho sona 's e gun robh na daoine co-ionann nan cuid bochdainn, cha robh comas aig duine dèidh os cionn chàich. Tha cuimhne mhath agam fhìn air mar a thòisich sin air atharrachadh, agus chan eil mi idir den bheachd gun robh muinntir a' bhaile a' cur romhpa, neo air son, sgaradh bho chàch a chèile neo seann dòighean obrach a' leigeil às. Aon uair 's gun robh neach air chomas seann tractar a cheannach dha fhèin bha e na b' fhasa a chuid obair earraich is foghair a thoirt air adhart nuair a fhreagradh sin air seach feitheamh chun am biodh nàbannan uile saor gus obrachadh còmhla. Cha robh

beòshlaint as a' chroit agus dh'fheumadh daoine obraichean eile agus bha sin a' toirt buaidh air cleachdaidhean. Thàinig fòn gu ruige taighean fa leth agus cha robh tadhal air nàbaidhean cho deata-mach tuilleadh oir ma bha naidheachd ann chluinnteach air fòn, agus thug an telebhisean buille bàis buileach air taigh-cèilidh.

Tha e nàdarra dha duine sam bith feuchainn ri a chuid suidheachaidh a leasachadh, agus a' chofhurtachd as fheàrr a bhunnig dha fhèin 's dha theaghlach. Theagamh mar sin gun canadh cuid gun robh impidh air a h-uile duine grèim a ghabhail air adhartas beairteis nuair a nochdadh cothrom, co-dhiù bha sin buileach onarach gus nach robh. Cha bu chòir mar sin iongnadh a bhith oirnn gum bheil cuid de cheannaichean ag amas air cosnadh a bharrachd a dhèanamh às an èiginn a tha a' fàs an lùib an tinnis coronavirus, is aithrisean ann gum bheil cuid aca a' ceannach biadh is cungaidhean airson an reic a-rithist aig prìsean mòran nas àirde.

Canar gun tig math à olc,

agus a rèir choltais tha sin a' tachairt le Buill Phàrlamaid eadar-phàrtaidh ag obrachadh nas fheàrr còmhla na thathas air fhaicinn bho chionn ùine mhòr, is iad a' cuimseachadh air na poileasaidhean as fheàrr a fhrithéalas math mòr-shluagh na dùthcha. Sin a dh'iarraimaid bhuapa fad na h-ùine! Gun teagamh tha dùbhlann romhpa a' deasachadh gus dìon a dhèanamh ma choinneimh tinneis nach aithnich crìoch agus nach gabh fhaicinn. 'S e dùbhlann a bhios ann cuideachd feuchainn ri daoine a dhìon bho shannt agus slaightearachd nam feadhainn a dh'iarraim brath a ghabhail air suidheachadh èiginneach an co-chreutairean. Ach dùbhlann ann neo às is còir dhan lagh bacadh sam bith a ghabhas cur air a leithid!

It is heartening to hear of cross-party co-operation on tackling coronavirus, I'm sure the majority of us would welcome such focus on the wellbeing of the people on a regular basis.

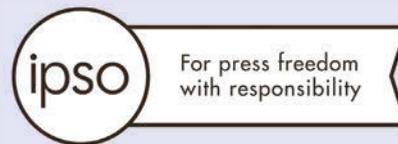
**Allan Campbell**  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)



Oban for a few days in February and just had to snap this picture of the perfect silhouette sunset. I wonder who the dog walker is and the guy leaning on the railings. I will be coming back lots as I love the area.'

swer is simple. To maintain universal services in a country half the size of England with a tenth of the population simply costs more.

Scotland is not a 'small' country. It is, in fact, a big country with a small population. It needs more roads, more cables, more train tracks, more transport links simply to achieve the same results as the rest of the UK. At the mo-



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

**HAIR BY RUTHERFORDS**

**LUXURY MEETS LIFESTYLE**  
eco friendly, organic salon  
49 Stevenson Street,  
Oban PA34 5JN  
01631 565411  
[hairbyrutherford.com](http://hairbyrutherford.com)  
[@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:@hotmail.co.uk)

**Stoddarts**

**LOWER PRICES!!! ON THE HONDA PIONEERS!!**

**NEW HONDA SX5700**  
2 SEATER SIDE BY SIDE UTV NOW ONLY  
**£9999 + VAT**  
WITH 3 YEAR WARRANTY

**NEW HONDA SX5700**  
4 SEATER (rear seats fold down) SIDE BY SIDE UTV  
NOW ONLY **£10,999 + VAT**  
WITH 3 YEAR WARRANTY  
SIMPLY THE BEST OFF ROAD UTV

**FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED**

TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072  
[john.stoddarts@btconnect.com](mailto:john.stoddarts@btconnect.com)  
[www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk](http://www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk)

OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## OBAN

For those looking to exercise their little grey cells, Oban Bowling Club will be hosting another quiz night on Friday March 27. Back by popular demand, Alex Carmichael will once again be compiling and delivering the questions. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

## BENDERLOCH

Ardchattan Parish Church hosted a well-attended quiz night at Benderloch's Victory Hall, raising a grand total of £598 to be split between Tearfund's Yemen Appeal (£300) and the church.

Teams of all ages gathered to test their general knowledge skills with Allison Davies presiding as quiz master.



From left organisers April Barron, Andrew Davies, Allison Davies and Jane Eccles preside over the raffle with a little help from Callum.

## TREE

Following the cattle sale held on Tuesday February 25, Tree Rural Development's public access automated external defibrillator (AED) was launched.

Due to an issue with the supply of an outdoor cabinet to house the unit, which would withstand Tree's weather, the project launch date was delayed.

Archie John MacLean, TRD director, made a speech after the sale to provide information regarding

# Youngsters raise Helly Aa as Vikings invade



Kilninver Primary School came alive with the sound of fearsome Vikings recently as they celebrated Up Helly Aa, the annual Viking festival held in the Shetland Isles.

Family and friends went along to enjoy the children's spectacular display on Wednesday February 26 as the pupils marched around the school in their finely made regalia, singing the Up Helly Aa song while the

Jarl led the squad in mighty battle cries. The procession led to the iconic burning of the Viking galley which pupils had made.

Back in the warmth of the school, pupils continued to entertain their guests as they performed songs, poetry and ceilidh dances before serving up authentically made flatbreads and Shetland delicacies – bannocks.

The staff at Kilninver

wanted to bring the Viking topic to life and engage pupils in exploring how communities can be impacted by their heritage.

Acting head teacher and native Shetlander Helen Daniels remarked: 'It was a wonderful accumulation of their learning, skills and enthusiasm all brought together alongside the wider school community. The children will remember this for a lifetime.'



this project. Funds were raised, through various donations, and a grant provided by the British Heart Foundation.

Thanks were given to the project donors – United Auctions, I A MacKinnon Haulage, Hamilton Brothers, NFU Mutual Oban (Warnock, MacDougall, Husthwaite and MacLean), AJ MacLean, Coll and Tree Vets, AA MacIntosh, John Kennedy Transport, T Barbour, Alan and Janette Reid, Kerr Family, Heanish, Tarff Valley Ltd, SAC Consulting and an anonymous donor.

Without the generous donations received this project would not have been possible.

A fantastic sum of £2,700 was received from the sponsors – this allowed TRD to purchase the AED and an outdoor cabinet. A balance remains in this fund, and this will be ring-fenced within TRD's accounts which will be used towards the cost of maintaining the AED (replacement batteries/pads) over its lifetime and will help towards the cost of replacing the unit at the end of the 10-year lifetime.



From left: Tearlach MacDonald, director; Angus John MacKecknie, John Kennedy Transport; Donald Morrison, United Auctions; Anne and Mark Stanley, Coll and Tree Vets, Archie John MacLean, director, Susan Lamont, chairperson.

## Cosy Cottage Pie



1kg floury potatoes  
peeled and  
chopped



2 leeks thinly sliced



450ml  
boiling  
beef  
stock



500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)



750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack

On a cold night, this satisfying FREE beefy pie topped with leek and potato mash is just what the doctor ordered! Serves 4, ready in 45 minutes, Syn FREE!



**Method:** Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste. Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

### OBAN

Glencruitten Church Hall,  
Glencruitten Road  
Wednesday 9.30am, 11.30am,  
5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

### FORT WILLIAM

Salvation Army Hall, Belford Rd  
Mondays 9.30am & 11.30am  
Thursdays 3pm, 5pm & 7pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

### LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead Baptist Church,  
Union Street/Argyll Street  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

### CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational Lodge,  
St John Street  
Tuesdays 11am NEW SESSION,  
1pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

**Slimming**  
WORLD

touching hearts, changing lives

**NEW  
SESSION  
CAMPBELTOWN  
TUESDAYS 11AM**

Detailed recipes available at:

[slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)   

**Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!**

Volunteers now required in Oban.

Call **01546 60 5550** or email [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk) to find out more.



## At random

**MARTIN LAING**

[mllaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mllaing@obantimes.co.uk)



# Healthy numbers celebrate anniversary



Appin's healthy walkers celebrated their 100th outing recently. Encouraged by retired Doctor Iain McNicol, the group was started last year and has since become a great success with a healthy dose of fun thrown in for good measure. The group welcomes all walkers, two or four legs, and caters for all abilities. Weather is never a problem and lunch also plays a part in the weekly outings. Anyone interested in joining in can meet the walkers in Appin car park at 11am any Wednesday.

## Splendid sum

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that I had attended a recent memorial fundraising night in Oban's Masonic Lodge in aid of Oban Dementia Resource Centre.

The event was organised by the family of Iain Auld, well-known and kenspeckle man about town who sadly died from dementia at the end of May last year.

I was contacted last week by Sue Pagan, Alzheimer Scotland's Oban dementia adviser, who said: 'The final sum from the recent fundraiser held for Alzheimer Scotland in memory of Oban golf professional Iain Auld came to £2,633.41.

'This is a wonderful donation, and we are very grateful to Joan, Iain's wife, and her friends worked very hard to raise this and it is a fitting tribute to her husband.'

Incidentally, I was touched to be told by a mutual friend, Jim McLeish, that Joan and the family were delighted with the coverage in The Oban Times.

If only it were not necessary.

## Happy birthday

The Oban Times featured a great front page picture four years ago of another kenspeckle figure from the town, Murdo MacLean, who is also a friend of mine.

The reason for the photo? Murdo had just turned '18' - actually 72 - but being a leap year baby he had supposedly just had his first legal pint in Aulay's pub.

So it was that I toasted his '19th' a couple of weeks ago. Happy birthday, young Murdo.

## Welcome back

Talking of pubs in town, I am pleased to report the reopening of the Whisky Vaults in Tweeddale Street after its winter hiatus.

Proprietor John McLachlan and partner Helen have been roughing it for a month or so in Florida (and elsewhere) but have returned to Oban and the business formerly known as the Woodside and the Rockport Hotel.

He has very interesting ideas to further develop his enterprise, and I will provide a suitable update when able to do so.

## What do you think?

Write to me at [mllaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mllaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

# High quality service rewarded with surgical gifts

Staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital (LIH) received a smorgasbord of surgical equipment last week thanks to the remaining £15,000 from a long-running fund.

Launched by Donald Scobie in 1988, the Surgical Fund, originally the West Highland Hospital (WHH) Scanner Appeal, raised funds for the first ultrasound machine in Oban, purchased in 1989.

Funds raised included a donation from the North British Hotels Trust. The fund continued, after the ultrasound was bought, with donations from grateful patients.

Several high quality pieces of equipment have been purchased via the fund, which has allowed the surgical and endoscopic services of the hospital to expand.

Another donation from the hotels trust contributed to the purchase costs of the first CT scanner in Oban in 2001.



From left: Dr Gordon Caldwell, clinical lead; Ann Love, A&E; Shona MacMillan, health care support worker; Moira Robinson, theatre; Sham Yadav, consultant surgeon; Ken Oxlund trustee; Caroline Henderson, hospital manager; and Iona MacCallum, theatre sister.



## CÙRSAICHEAN GOIRID - EASTER SHORT COURSES 2020



**FIDDLE - WEST COAST STYLE**  
WITH IAIN MACFARLANE  
30/03 - 03/04/2020



**PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT**  
WITH INGRID HENDERSON  
30/03 - 03/04/2020



**FLUTE AND WHISTLE**  
WITH HAMISH NAPIER  
06 - 10/04/2020

Chan eil ach beagan àitean air fhàgail.

Limited places left on our courses.

[cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk) - 01471 888 240  
[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk)

# OUTDOORS

## Spring will be tree-mendous

As the days lengthen and – hopefully at least – the levels of sunshine increase, we can look forward to the trees coming into leaf, writes Jo Woolf

No doubt many of us will ponder the perennial question of whether the oak is out before the ash, in which case ‘we’ll get a splash’, or the ash is out before the oak, meaning that ‘we’ll get a soak’.

For untold centuries, trees have stood at the heart of many of our beliefs and traditions; we’ve used their products for building, for food, for remedies and for prophesy. Knowing which wood to use for what purpose was, of course, the key: sometimes the first question to ask was whether you should cut it at all.

I’ve chosen five trees, to show you what I mean...

### Hazel

The first hazel catkins are always a joy to see, braving the squalls of early spring. Hazelnuts were an important source of food for early settlers: pits containing hundreds of charred hazel shells, the relics of Mesolithic feasts, have been found on Skye and Colonsay.

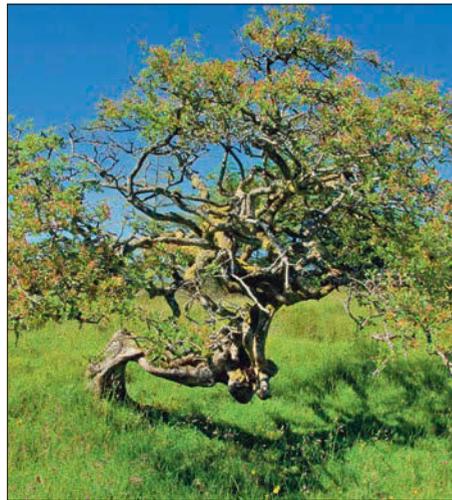
The hazel is also associated with knowledge. In Irish legend, nuts from hazel trees overhanging the Well of Wisdom dropped into the water and were eaten by salmon, which in turn were caught and cooked by a young man named Fionn Mac Cumhaill; through the fish, Fionn imbibed the hazel trees’ wisdom, and he would later become one of his country’s most heroic figures. The idea of hazelnuts containing bite-sized wisdom is still with us, whenever we tell someone a story ‘in a nutshell’.

At Hallowe’en, especially in Scotland, people would try to predict their future partner by throwing hazelnuts onto the fire one by one: if the nut cracked or jumped out, the lover would be faithless, but if it burned steadily, he or she would be true.

### Hawthorn

With their abundant blossom and bright red berries, hawthorns were believed to be the abode of fairies, and they were rarely cut down, even if they stood in the way of the plough.

Wizened old hawthorn trees can often be found ‘guarding’ an ancient site such as a stone circle or a healing well. On Eildon Hill near Melrose, the 13th-century Scottish poet and prophet Thomas the Rhymer is reputed to have encountered the



Hawthorns, left, were believed to be the abode of fairies while hazel catkins are a joy.

Fairy Queen beneath a hawthorn bush, and was spirited away into the Otherworld for seven years.

Bringing hawthorn or May blossom indoors was thought to bring bad luck, but women would collect dewdrops from the flowers to bathe their faces, as it was said to enhance their beauty, and men would wash their hands in the water to make them more skilled at their work.

‘Cast ne’er a clout ‘til May is out’ was the sage advice of country folk, who would hang on to every ‘clout’ or item of clothing until May blossom signalled the arrival of warmer weather. But caution was still needed, because another saying warned: ‘When the hawthorn bloom too early shows, we shall still have many snows.’

### Juniper

An evergreen conifer, juniper can grow to altitudes of 3,000 feet, hugging windswept hillsides with its low-growing, prickly branches; locally, there are some good examples in Knapdale.

When burned, juniper wood produces a cedar-like fragrance but little smoke; in former centuries this made it a favourite fuel for illicit distilling, because it would not betray the location with a tell-tale plume of smoke. The



smouldering wood is still used to give a delicate taste and aroma to smoked food, including meat and fish.

By far the most popular use for juniper berries was to make gin: in fact, the words ‘gin’ and ‘juniper’ share the same source. In the 1800s, juniper berries were harvested in the Highlands and taken to markets in Inverness and Aberdeen. In recent years, a number of Scottish distillers have begun offering gin from berries sourced in the Highlands and islands.

### Elm

While English elms have suffered a significant decline through Dutch elm disease, the wych elm, which is more common in Scotland, is still thriving.

If you wanted to avoid the attentions of malevolent spirits, elm was your tree of choice: milkmaids would put a sprig of elm into their milk churn to stop witches from curdling the milk, and there are instances of a murderer being buried with an elm stave through the heart, to prevent them from rising from the grave.

If the stave then took root and grew into a tree, it was thought to have miraculous healing prop-

erties: there’s a story that people would collect their nail-clippings and pin them to one of these trees, in the hope of a cure.

Although elm did have some practical uses – its wood was used to make early water pipes, canal locks, and the keels and rudders of ships – our relationship with the tree was uneasy at the best of times. ‘Elm hateth man and waiteth’ is a saying that sums up its reputation for dropping large boughs unexpectedly, even in calm weather.

Interestingly, it also offered a remedy: a decoction of the leaves was applied to wounds and broken bones.

### Oak

In the 1st century AD, Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder wrote that the druids in Britain ‘hold nothing more sacred than mistletoe and a tree on which it is growing, provided it is an oak.’

The tree known as the ‘king of the woods’ became entwined with our national identity, and with the fate of monarchs: a familiar story tells how King Charles II hid in an oak tree to escape the Roundheads during the Civil War. In the 1700s, oak leaves and acorns were symbols of the Jacobite movement, which sought – unsuccessfully – to restore a Stuart king to the throne.

Oaks were widely used for building houses and ships: King Henry VIII’s warship Mary Rose consumed around 1,200 trees in her construction, most of them oaks, and larger ships demanded even more. The timber also made excellent charcoal, and was burned to smelt iron; here in Argyll, until the late 1800s, oak wood fuelled the Bonawe iron furnace on Loch Etive.

We’re blessed with some beautiful woodlands which are well worth a visit in spring. Examples include Sutherland’s Grove at Barcaldine; Tavnish oak woods near Tayvallich; and Glasdrum Wood above Loch Creran.

Jo Woolf’s new book, *Britain’s Trees – A Treasury of Traditions, Superstitions, Remedies and Literature*, is published by The National Trust. It contains chapters on around 40 different tree species, looking at their often weird traditions. Published this month, the book will be available in Oban from Waterstones.

## Chris Sesar & Gill Halliday

Saturday 21 March  
8pm

“contemporary folk  
and roots music with  
soulful guitar and  
sublime flute playing”



CALL TO BOOK  
01586 552133

VISIT US  
ardsziel.co.uk



Send us your outdoor news by emailing [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or call 01631 568000

# This week's walks

## Reduce, reuse, repair and then recycle

This week (March 7-15) is Scotland's annual re-use week, otherwise known as Pass it on Week. Pass it on Week is all about swapping, repairing, sharing and donating to help make things last.

Not so long ago the amount of waste we produced was minimal, but now the sheer volumes of waste generated every day are a direct result of our excessive throw-away lifestyles, and this waste is reducing our capacity to survive.

So before we even think about recycling we should first reduce what we buy, and then reuse, repair, share and swap what we have, and only as a last resort should we recycle, because recycling isn't all that it is cracked up to be.

In 2018, SEPA reported that households in the Highlands generated 127,880 tonnes waste; of this 66,029 tonnes went to landfill and 54,571 tonnes was recycled. Our household waste is mostly food, newspapers, cardboard, glass and plastics, with paper and cardboard



being the most commonly recycled waste – £140 million worth of clothing also ends up in UK landfills every year.

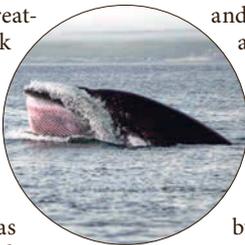
So what happens to the 'stuff' we recycle? Roughly two-thirds of plastic waste in the UK is sent overseas to be recycled, because it is cheaper. Until January 2018, China imported most of the world's plastic waste. Since then Malaysia, Turkey, Poland and Indonesia have picked up some of the slack, with Malaysia importing the greatest amount. In 2018, 9.5 million tonnes of metal and 4.5 million tonnes of paper were also sent overseas to be recycled, according to HM Revenue & Customs. What happens to this waste once it leaves the UK is harder to follow.

The recycling rate for clothes in the UK is one of the best in the world, making an estimated £100 million for charity and redirecting up to 650,000 tonnes from UK landfills. However, with the rise of fast fashion, developing countries have become a dumping ground for ever-increasing volumes of poor quality single use clothing. Recently, ITV News reported that 62,417 tonnes of clothing were sent from the UK to be sold in Ghana last year; an amount that has doubled in a decade. The quantities sent, combined with the low quality, makes it hard, or impossible to sell, and countries such as Ghana are struggling to cope and are being swamped with mountains of rotting clothes.

Recycling isn't the answer and Pass it on Week doesn't have to stop at the end of the week. Buy less, and re-use and repair what you have, and then swap or donate it for someone else to use, only as a last resort should we recycle.

## Underwater acoustics talk captivates meeting

A small audience was treated to a fascinating talk at February's Argyll and Lochaber Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) meeting at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). Sounds of the Minke Whale was presented by Denise Risch.



A marine mammal ecologist at the Dunstaffnage-based research centre, Dr Risch is studying 'underwater sounds and aquatic soundscapes'. At the recent SWT meeting, she spoke about her research and the application of 'passive acoustic monitoring' to investigate the use of sound by whales

and the development of acoustic methods to study distribution and diversity as a tool for conservation.

The captivated audience heard the differing sounds made by the various whale species – one sang a high-pitched and melancholy song with an almost human touch, while another pumped out a rhythmic beat which would have impressed the drummer of a modern rock band.

More worrying, however, was the recorded sound of the propeller of just one single tanker, drawing the listeners' attention to the possibly

unrecognised fact that, in this modern day, marine life is subjected to severe noise all the time.

The next lecture is on Thursday March 19 at SAMS, at 7pm.

Kate Holbrook, a woodlands adviser for Scottish Natural Heritage, will give a talk on Where Have All The Flowers Gone? Kate was funded by the Churchill Fellowships to study the impact of grazing on woodland ground flora.

All are welcome to join the Argyll and Lochaber branch of SWT at the lecture, to chat and enjoy homebaking. There will be a small charge which will be used to support the conservation work of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader should be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)  
**Saturday March 14, Glen Righ to Glen Nevis, Inchrigh.**

A cross-country route in the shadow of the Mamores linking up with the final section of the West Highland Way. Mainly on well-made paths. Minimal bog-trotting.

Start at the Inchree forest walk CP, NN029634. Leave from the SW corner of the CP following the path that zig-zags up the wooded side of the glen above the waterfall on the Abhainn Righ. At the forest track, turn right and follow it through Gleann Righ by the river to the forest boundary. The track crosses the river as it curves right. At NN076646 there is a stile that gives access over the fence and on to the boggy open ground to the N. A faint path may be found that leads past the remains of some dwellings and continues to Lundavra. Follow the public road to NN100666 where a short track on the right gives access to the WHW. Follow this N, then NE towards Glen Nevis where it joins a track leading downhill. Follow the WHW to its junction with the peat track, then stay on the track N to Braveheart CP, NN120735. Fork left on to the path and follow it N uphill, curving W to a junction at NN113740. Take the right fork and zig-zag downhill to the Leisure Centre and the A82. Turn left and walk into Fort William town centre.

Refreshments at Nevisport, bus stop outside for return to Inchrigh.

#44 bus times 16:15, 17:17 and 18:07. Depending on time, and interest, there is an option to climb from the West Highland Way up to Fort Dun Deardail. This will be decided by the group on the day.

Grade: M. Distance: 22Km. Height to climb: 500m. Map(s): LR41, EX384/392. Meet at: Fort William WM NN112742 at 08:45. Start of walk at 09:30. Leader: TBC.

### Thursday March 19, Beinn Damhain, Glen Falloch.

An interesting hill hidden from the A82. Start from the A82 in Glen Falloch at NN319196, where limited parking is available at the start of a forest track. Follow the track up NW, under the power lines and over the railway. It then turns S, then W to a junction at NN309195, SW of Troisgeach Bheag. Turn left and follow the track SW to a footbridge over the Allt Anran. Cross the river and climb SW up the slopes of Beinn Damhain to its summit, 684m. Return by the same route OR descend SE to the head of Lochan Beinn Damhain then N to the bridge over the the Allt Anran

Grade: M+. Distance: 11.5km. Height to climb: 720m. Maps LR56 and EX364. Meet at: Glencoe Village CP NN098587 at 09:00. Start of walk at 09:30. Leader: Ann Jones 07770 434114.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevis.hillwalking.club](http://www.nevis.hillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevis.hillwalking.club

### Sunday March 15, Sgurr an Fhuairail, Aonach Meadhoin, Sgurr a' Bhealaich Dheirg, Saileag, Cluanie.

These Munros, now known as the Three Brothers, are a complement to their five more famous sisters. The siblings together with their several tops make a splendid mountain ridge extending 15km to the sea at the head of Loch Duich.

Start from the Cluanie Inn CP, NH076117. Head NW across rough ground, which soon steepens, to reach an indistinct ridge. Pass to the left of the crags around the rim of a small Corrie to reach a small summit at 864m. Follow the ridge around Coire na Cadha, over Sgurr an Fhuairail to Aonach Meadhoin\*.

Descend W on a narrow, rocky ridge to a col at 827m and climb up to Sgurr a' Bhealaich Dheirg\*\*. A narrow ridge leads NE about 100m to a prominent cairn, which marks the summit. Return to the main ridge and follow it W for 1.7km to Saileag. Descend SW, curving W to Bealach an Lapain, 725m. At a cairn, NH010144, turn S on to a path and follow it down a rocky rib protruding from the grassy hillside to reach the forest boundary at a cairn, NH010138.

Turn right and continue on the path down to Glen Shiel. Transport required at CP, NH009135, 7mins from start.

\*A short route, omitting the other two Munros, descends S from the summit of Aonach Meadhoin, curving E at about 800m alt., into Coire na Cadha. Turn S at about NH055132, 100m before reaching the main burn issuing from the corrie. Continue the descent S, keeping to the easiest slopes to the W of the Allt na Steille Baine. When well below the waterfall, cross the burn to reach the sheepfold, NH054122. Follow a path S for 800m to the A87. Transport required at lay-by, NH054114, or walk 2km back to start on the A87 or the adjacent Old Military Road.

\*\*A shorter route from Sgurr a' Bhealaich Dheirg, omitting the last Munro, returns SE down the ridge until it bifurcates at a small summit, 906m. Take the ridge going S down to a small summit at 806m, overlooking Coire Tholl Bruach to the E. Continue S, curving SE along the spur of Meall a' Charra.

Descend its steeper nose, curving NE to cross the Allt Coire Tholl Bruach where convenient just N of the forest boundary fence. Head SE, making for the sheepfold, NH054122, below the Steall Bhan waterfall. Follow a path S for 800m to the A87. Transport required at lay-by, NH054114, or walk 2km back to start on the A87 or the adjacent Old Military Road.

11km, 1257m ascent. \*7km, 811m ascent. \*\*10km, 1069m ascent. Suggested and coordinated by Alan Petrie.

**MACC Business Park**

**Workshops available to let**

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site  
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space  
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or enquiries@maccdl.co.uk for further information

**Get me to the church on time**

**Wedding mini bus hire**

**M Morrison VEHICLE HIRE**

Local pick up available. Competitive rates

- 200 miles a day included • 7 days a week
- Oban plus 15 miles free delivery

Tel: 07825 581171  
Email: [morrisonmotorrepairs@gmail.com](mailto:morrisonmotorrepairs@gmail.com)

**Morrison Motor Repairs**  
Unit 1 Creran Marine, Barcaldine  
by Oban, Argyll PA37 1SG

# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Calling all budding young authors

An Argyll-based children's writer is calling on budding young writers to get their literary careers in top gear and enter a new national writing competition with hotel company Premier Inn.

Writer and author of Galloway Girls series and Lily's Just Fine Gill Stewart is one of the judges in the national short story competition, launched to help raise money for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (GOSH).

Youngsters are invited to let their creative juices flow and submit original bedtime stories. Inspiration can come from anywhere – their own real-life experiences or something from the depths of their imaginations.

Youngsters can submit their 500-word short story by emailing StoryPremierInn@golin.com.

For more information visit [www.premierinn.com](http://www.premierinn.com).

## Musical voyage travels to St Mary's Space

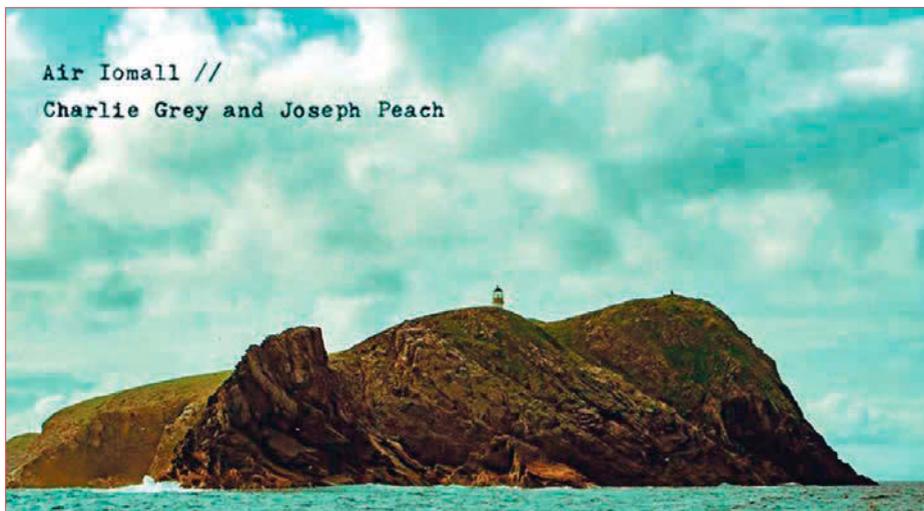
by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Some of Scotland's most remote and remarkable places will fill Appin venue St Mary's Space later this month when folk musicians Charlie Grey and Joseph Peach take to the piano and fiddle.

Making music filled with spontaneity, sensitivity and freedom is this pair's mantra and their performance on Saturday March 21 will feature a screening of Air Iomall – a film and suite of new music, inspired by now uninhabited islands deep in the North Atlantic.

Travelling aboard the Dutch tall ship Wylde Swan, the duo visited and wrote music inspired by the histories, people, and landscapes of



Air Iomall // Charlie Grey and Joseph Peach

these mysterious, wild places, including The Shiant Isles, North Rona, The Flannan Isles, Sula Sgeir and St Kilda. Filmmaker Hamish

Macleod documented the duo on this once-in-a-lifetime experience, offering up a visually stunning and sensitive insight into these

under-documented and enigmatic landscapes.

It culminates with a concert of their new music on St Kilda – the most remote part of the

The house concert will include a screening of Air Iomall – a film and suite of new music, inspired by now uninhabited islands deep in the North Atlantic.

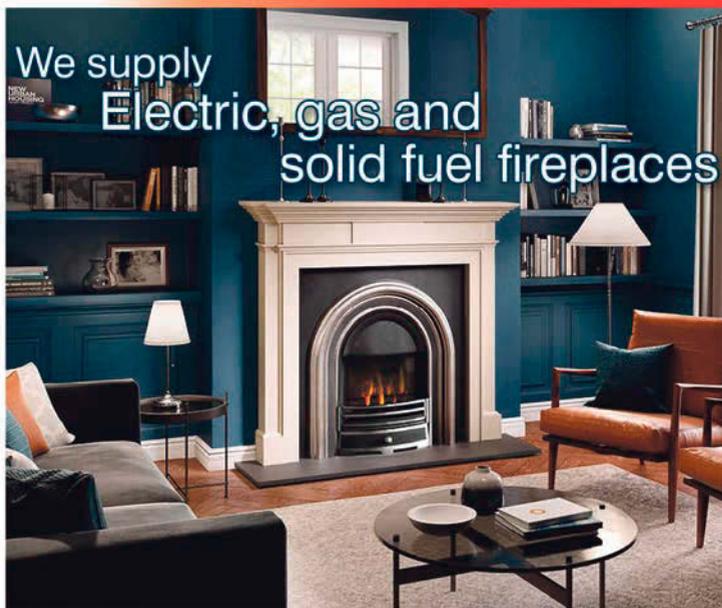
UK, on the 88th anniversary of the evacuation of its native population.

The project was supported by Help Musicians UK and Creative Scotland.

Doors open at St Mary's Space for the house concert at 7.30pm, on Saturday March 21, ready for an 8pm start. Entry is by donation. Places must be reserved in advance by contacting the venue by email at [info@stmarys.space](mailto:info@stmarys.space) or message them via their Facebook page.



Lorne Street,  
Lochgilthead,  
Argyll PA31 8LU,  
Tel: 01546 603111



We supply  
Electric, gas and  
solid fuel fireplaces

from trusted  
manufacturers



01546 603111

Opening hours:  
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Contact us on  
07470 699572  
at any other time.

## Haulotte Star 10 Cherry Picker

For when you  
need to reach  
higher.

**HIRE and SUPPLIES**

Tel: 01631 566306  
[www.hireandsupplies.com](http://www.hireandsupplies.com)

# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## GGs host concert this weekend

The Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (better known as the GGs) will hold its annual concert this Friday March 13 in Hyndland Parish Church at 7.30pm.

Tickets, which are available on the door, cost £10 and include a complimentary drink at the break. Everyone will be welcome along for an evening of great choral entertainment and solo performers.

## Comunn an Taobh an Iar ceilidh

Next Thursday March 19, the Comunn an Taobh an Iar (whose cèilidhs have been a big part of my Glasgow Letters) will hold its last concert in the Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

It is very sad to see the end of an association that has contributed so much to Gaelic in Glasgow so I asked the committee to provide me with an account of the life of the association to mark its end, after 50 years, detailed below.

## The history

The Comunn an Taobh an Iar association was formed

on June 18, 1969, by some residents of Bearsden and Milngavie who were interested in promoting the culture and language of their Highland heritage.

Their objectives were to promote, uphold and foster the Gaelic language and the music and cultural heritage of the Gael, to support other associations which had similar aims, to afford to members and others facilities to study the Gaelic language and music, literature, arts and crafts and culture of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and to provide members the opportunity to meet together for fellowship.

Membership was available to any resident in the West End of Glasgow, the Burghs of Bearsden and Milngavie, or any other neighbouring districts who shared the aims of the association.

In the beginning there were several children's Gaelic classes. Unfortunately these stopped but the association continued to support the Bearsden Young Fiddlers.

The annual ball, held from 1969, was well attended up until the last few years when it was decided by the present committee that it was not feasible to continue with it.

## Rave reviews for Maim

This weekend is the last weekend of Maim (a collaboration between WHYTE and Theatre Gu Leòr) which has been receiving great plaudits and runs until this Saturday March 14 in the Tron Theatre before setting off around the country to Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen, Skye, Lewis, Benbecula, Barra, Oban, and Mull.

The production will feature live music, dance, spoken word and video and is a call to action: giving voice to the frustrations of the next generation who care deeply about the crisis facing their land and language.

## SIAN perform sold out show

Fresh from the release of their new album, Gaelic singing trio Sian (Ellen MacDonald, Ceitlin LR Smith, and Eilidh Cormack) had Cottiers Theatre on their feet last Sunday evening.

I missed the show as I wasn't in Glasgow but intend to review the album in this column soon and heard through a reliable source that the concert was first class.

## Acclaimed pianist Clare Hammond in Oban

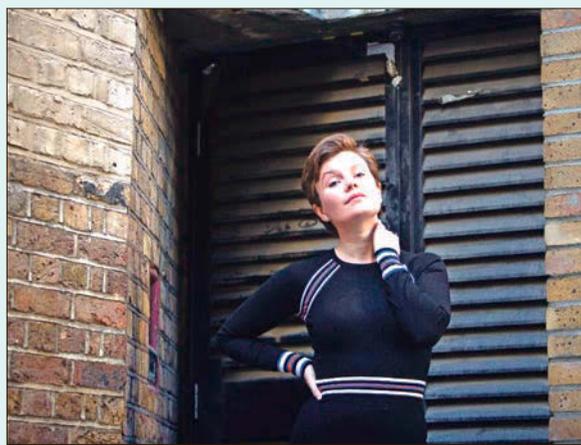
Following her hugely successful recital two years ago, Oban Music Society will welcome back acclaimed pianist Clare Hammond to Oban on March 22 at 3pm.

She will be playing a programme of Mendelssohn, Beethoven (in his centenary year), Schumann, Sally Beamish and Earl Wild in St John's Cathedral.

Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and has developed a 'reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes' (BBC Music Magazine).

In 2016, she won the Royal Philharmonic Society's Young Artist Award in recognition of outstanding achievement, while in 2020 she gives her debut recitals for the International Piano Series at the Southbank Centre and the Aldeburgh Festival.

In recent seasons, Clare has performed Panufnik with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra (Jacek Kasprzyk), Roxburgh



Clare Hammond will play Oban on March 22.

Photograph: Julie Kim

with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Michael Seal), and Connesson with the Philharmonia (Jamie Phillips).

In 2019, she gave the world premiere of Uncoiling The River by Kenneth Hesketh, with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales (Martyn Brabbins) and released the Complete Keyboard Works of Myslivecek with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra

(Nicholas McGegan). This Sunday (March 15) sees a Piano Fun concert at Oban Parish Church in Glencruitten Road. The short programme of piano music starts at 3pm.

Donations from the event will be split between church funds and Oban Music Society which promotes classical music in the town. There will also be an afternoon tea.

# WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

### THURSDAY 12TH MARCH

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
**Oban Health Walks**  
Oban Congregational Church  
10am-12pm

**Recovery Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen.12.30pm  
**Creative Writing Group**  
New Hope Kitchen  
2.30pm-4pm

**Slimming World Fort William**  
Salvation Army Hall  
3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

**FRIDAY 13TH MARCH**  
**Hope Kitchen Music Group**  
Salvation Army Hall  
1pm-4pm

**Parsley's Cat Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen  
2pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Jono  
Open till 2:00am

**SATURDAY 14TH MARCH**  
**Parkrun**  
Ganavan Sands  
9.30am

### Live Music & Entertainment @

**Markie Dans**  
Stramash Ceilidh Band  
Open till 2:00am

**Leap Back 60's 70's 80's Disco Party**  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
Prize for best fancy dress, tickets available from the Dove Centre & Coasters Bar £10 over 21s  
8pm – 1am

**SUNDAY 15TH MARCH**  
**Morning Service - Refreshments follow**  
Salvation Army Hall  
11:00am – 12:00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm  
£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

### MONDAY 16TH MARCH

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am – 12:00pm

**Slimming World Fort William**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9.30am & 11.30am  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

**Fellowship Meeting**  
New Hope Kitchen. 2pm  
**Slimming World, Lochgilphead**  
Union Street/Argyll Street  
5:30pm & 7:30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

**Martyn's Monday Club**  
New Hope Kitchen. 7pm-9pm  
**LGBTQ+ And Then We Danced**  
Oban Phoenix Cinema. 8pm

**TUESDAY 17TH MARCH**  
**Oban Men's Shed**  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
9:00am – 12:00pm

**Carers Coffee Morning**  
North Argyll Carers Centre  
10.30am-12pm  
**Martyn's Monday Club Ladies**  
New Hope Kitchen  
7pm-9pm

**Royal Opera: Fidelio**  
Oban Phoenix Cinema. 9.30pm

**WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH**  
**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
**Slimming World, Oban**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

**Open Day**  
Greenshoots Garden  
10.30am-3.30pm

**Hope Kitchen Beach clean**  
(meet opposite the View)  
10.30am

**Knitting Group**  
New Hope Kitchen. 2pm  
**Lorn Drama Festival**  
Corran Halls. 7.30pm-9.30pm

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details. To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

## MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

# Timber House Kits

## Experts in this field...

Bespoke | Cost Effective | Sustainable Resources  
Traditional Methods | Quick Build  
Modern Techniques | Economical

**Tel: 01546 602989** [www.macleodconstruction.co.uk](http://www.macleodconstruction.co.uk)

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 12 A' Mhairt / THURSDAY 12 March

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 19:00 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)  
 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
 20:00 An Là – News  
 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs  
 21:00 Robert Mone – Saorsa Gu Siorraidh? (rpt)  
 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Seoid a' Chidsin S4  
 22:30 Fo Ghlas/ Worlds Toughest Prisons (rpt)  
 23:20 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)  
 23:30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 13 A' Mhairt / FRIDAY 13th March

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 18:35 Machair (rpt)  
 19:00 An Là – News  
 19:25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
 19:30 Fianais (rpt)  
 20:00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)  
 20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
 20:30 Thar na Loidhne (rpt)  
 21:00 Opry an Luir (rpt)  
 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Eadar na Dha 1918-1935/Clash of Futures:1918-1935  
 22:50 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)  
 23:00 Seirm – Celtic Connections (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 14 A' Mhairt / SATURDAY 14 March

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 17:45 An Là – News  
 18:00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v St Mirren  
 20:00 Machair (rpt)

20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
 20:30 An t-Eilean/ From Skye with Love (rpt)  
 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Seirm – Celtic Connections  
 22:00 Fo Ghlas/ World's Toughest Prisons (rpt)  
 22:45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – C. Duncan (rpt)  
 23:00 Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v St Mirren (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 15 A' Mhairt / SUNDAY 15 March

13:00 ÙR/NEW: Womens Six Nations Rugby – Wales v Scotland  
 15:05 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
 15:10 Balaith Ronaigh (rpt)  
 16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 18:15 An Là – News  
 18:30 Seachd La – News Review  
 19:30 Alleluia (rpt)  
 19:55 Binneas – Na Trads – Lori Watson (rpt)  
 20:00 Eorpa (rpt)  
 20:30 Fuine S5 (rpt)  
 21:00 Rona: Dileab Chlann Eardsaidh Raghnaill (rpt)  
 22:00 Seirm – Celtic Connections (rpt)  
 23:00 Eadar na Dha: 1918-1935/Clash of Futures:1918-1935 (rpt)  
 23:55 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)

### DILUAIN 16 A' Mhairt / MONDAY 16 March

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 19:00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
 20:00 An Là – News  
 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Thar na Loidhne/Crossing the

Line  
 21:00 Trusadh- Eadar Airigh is Arizona/ Muriel of Skye (rpt)  
 22:00 Tìree Music Festival – The Fratellis (rpt)  
 22:30 'San Fhuil / Its in the Blood (rpt)  
 23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin S4 (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 17 A' Mhairt / TUESDAY 17 March

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 19:00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)  
 19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
 20:00 An Là – News  
 20:30 Fuine S5 (rpt)  
 21:00 Guth Ag Aithris – Christine Primrose (rpt)  
 22:00 Trusadh – Eadar Airigh is Arizona/Muriel of Skye (rpt)  
 23:00 Fraochy Bay(rpt)  
 23:05 Togaidh Sinn Fonn/Join in The Music (rpt)  
 23:55 Binneas – Na Trads – Lori Watson (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 18 A' Mhairt / WEDNESDAY 18 March

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
 19:00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
 20:00 An Là – News  
 20:30 Dreach Ur (rpt)  
 21:00 ÙR/NEW: The Brew Dog Story (Na Grudairean)  
 22:00 FUNC (rpt)  
 22:30 Tìree Music Festival – The Fratellis (rpt)  
 23:00 Robert Mone – Saorsa Gu Siorraidh?



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA



Top, Snow White at home with the dwarves; and above, Sarah Ferguson as Rose Red has a blooming great voice. KC\_T11\_luingpanto06 and KC\_T11\_luingpanto02

# Laughter lines

by Kathie Griffiths  
 kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Mirror, mirror on the wall who puts on the fairest panto of them all?

Luing's cast of Snow White and the Curse of the Ice Queen

are keeping fingers and toes crossed it will be them when this weekend when they bring bumper banter, colourful characters and clever one-liners to the stage.

The Oban Times went along to Sunday's dress rehearsal to

get a peek preview of what fun lies in store.

For such a tiny island there is a big line-up of natural talent. Prince Charming (Innes MacQueen) is just one of the stars ready to dazzle audiences, Sarah Ferguson is Snow

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



**CRAFT & COFFEE MORNING**  
 in aid of Mary's Meals  
**Saturday 21st March**  
 10.00am to 12.00  
 Connel Village Hall

**nevis centre**  
 bowling ● soft play ● events ● music ● sports

**Fort William's Recreation and Events Centre**

**OPEN DAILY**  
 Soft Play 10am - 6pm  
 Bowling 12pm - 10pm

**Head over to our website to see what's on!**  
[www.neviscentre.co.uk](http://www.neviscentre.co.uk)

**Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William PH33 6AN T:01397 700707**



Top, This weekend is showtime for the cast of Luing's 2020 panto – Snow White and The Ice Queen; above left, Prince Charming Innes MacQueen loves Snow White – and his dashingly debonair good looks; and right, Joan Morgan is the full-length talking mirror, mirror standing on the floor. KC\_T11\_luingpanto01, KC\_T11\_luingpanto03 and KC\_T11\_luingpanto09

# s with Luing panto

White's sister Rose Red with a top-rate singing voice and Kay Ben as Grouchy the Dwarf will raise plenty of smiles.

The Ice Queen Paula Roberts is as glitzy and glam as a bad-die can be and her dogsbody Prod The Goblin, played by James Williams, is a likeable fellow with the pointiest of ears.

Magic Mirror Joan Morgan, Snow White's mum Helen Finnie and the fine crew of dwarves – Kirsty Gommersall, Mary Whitmore, Rachel Cruickshanks, Iona and Freya Ferguson, Natasha and Dylan Kinvig – all bringing bag loads of joy. Snow White stepped straight out of a fairytale book – she is delightful.

Lines have been learned but John Morgan is reliably ready

to prompt if needed, Drew Herridge casts a magic spell of his own with the scenery and Neil McCorricken and Iain Cruickshanks are on sound and lighting duty, with Nicky Archibald, Lauren Leggett and Mandy MacLachlan on hand back stage.

Tickets for the three shows – £5 for adults and £2 for under-16s – which is being staged at Cullipool Village Hall are available from Luing Stores or by calling 01852 314276. Curtains go up tomorrow, Friday March 13, at 7pm and on Saturday March 14 at 2.30pm and 7pm.

Luing Amateur Dramatic Society returns to panto land this year after a number of years with Fiona Cruickshanks as its director.



Jolly the dwarf is a sweet treat selling candy from the sweet mine.

KC\_T11\_luingpanto05

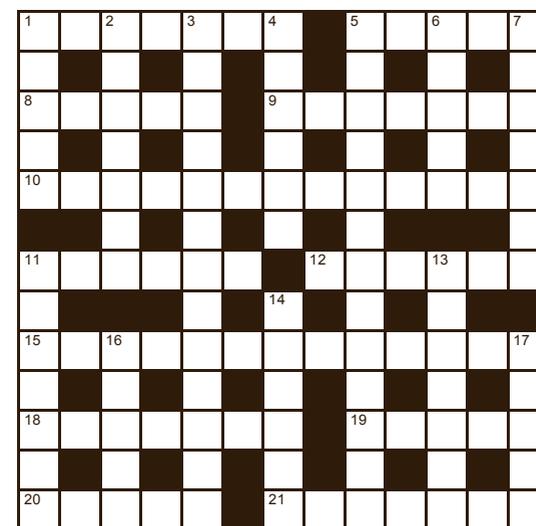
**Your local radio listings**  
Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at [www.obanfm.scot](http://www.obanfm.scot) or on the TuneIn app. For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: [info@obanfm.scot](mailto:info@obanfm.scot)



**MONDAY:** 8am-12pm: Breakfast with Stephen, 12pm-3pm: Sounds of the '60s with Bob G, 3pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-7pm: Drive time with Marcus, 7pm-8pm: Rosie's Highland Fling, 8pm-9pm: John McLuckie Show, 9pm-10pm: David Cullen Show, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**TUESDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Ken Hunter, 1pm-3pm: Macky on Fm, 3pm-5pm: Mental Health, Musings with Mer, 5pm-7pm: Drive times with Bob G, 7pm-8pm: Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 8pm-9pm: Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 9pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Comfort Zone with Lesley, 1pm-3pm: Doug Carmichael lunch show, 3pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-7pm: Drive time with Campbell, 7pm-9pm: Country meets Rock and Roll with Ken or Len, 9pm-11pm: Gordon's Grooves, 11pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**THURSDAY:** 8am-11am: Breakfast with

Andy & Sarah, 11am-3pm: Molly's Mix, 3pm-7pm: Drive time with Stephen, 7pm-9pm: Christine's Collection, 9pm-10pm: Anne's Ceilidh, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight  
**FRIDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Laura, 10am-1pm: Teeny and Tiny, 1pm-5pm: Clyde 2, 5pm-6:45pm: Drive time with Jim Lynch, 6:45pm-7pm: Sports View, 7pm-8pm: Country meets country with Jackie Craig, 8pm-10pm: Peter Rainnie, 10pm-12am: Clyde 2  
**SATURDAY:** 8am-10am: Breakfast with Stephen, 10am-1pm: Saturday morning live with Linda Crosher, 1pm-6pm: Clyde 2, 6pm-7pm: Sports view with the dream team, 7pm-8pm: Sounds Scottish with Archie, 8pm-10pm: Dave Lewis, 10pm-12am: Margo till Midnight  
**SUNDAY:** 9am-11am: Sunday Morning with Breege, 11am-1pm: Sunday brunch with Allan, 1pm-7pm: Clyde 2, 7pm-9pm: New Country with Dave and Murdo, 9pm-11pm: Drum and Bass with Graham Scott

## Crossword



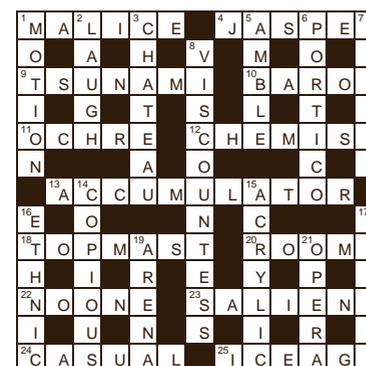
**Across**

- 1 Exaggerated (5,2)
- 5 Neopaganism (5)
- 8 Earthenware pot (5)
- 9 Popeye's plant (7)
- 10 Used in shops to scan items (3,4,6)
- 11 Maxim (6)
- 12 Swanky (6)
- 15 Account of events (13)
- 18 To burst inward (7)
- 19 Disorder... (5)
- 20 ...menacing look (5)
- 21 Understanding (7)

**Down**

- 1 Explosive devise (1-4)
- 2 A riding horse (7)
- 3 Cheap shop (8,5)
- 4 Large paper picture (6)
- 5 Unwanted item (5,8)
- 6 Leaf beet (5)
- 7 For butts (7)
- 11 Where a jewel is placed (7)
- 13 Very small amount (7)
- 14 Stiffen due to lack of heat (6)
- 16 Top dog (5)
- 17 Rope loop (5)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WWW.OBANPHOENIX.COM | 01631 562905  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SCO42407



SEE MORE AT [OBANPHOENIX.COM](http://OBANPHOENIX.COM)

<b>FRIDAY 13TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	12:00/17:00
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	16:30
David Copperfield   PG	19:00
Emma   PG	19:30
<b>SATURDAY 14TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	10:30★/13:00/15:30
Dolittle   PG	11:30★
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	16:15
David Copperfield   PG	18:00
Home   12A	18:30
Emma.   U	20:30
Parasite   15	20:30
<b>SUNDAY 15TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	12:30/15:00/17:30
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	12:45/15:00
David Copperfield   PG	17:15
Home   12A	19:45
Emma   PG	20:00



**CINEMA HIRE**  
WE HIRE OUT BOTH CINEMA SCREENS FOR PRIVATE SCREENINGS BIRTHDAY PARTIES STAFF NIGHTS OUT BUSINESS CONFERENCES

FOR MORE INFO: [CINEMA@OBANPHOENIX.COM](mailto:CINEMA@OBANPHOENIX.COM)



**NEVER MISS WHAT'S ON**  
SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY EMAIL LISTINGS HERE

JUST SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

<b>MONDAY 16TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	12:00/15:30/17:00
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	17:45
Emma.   U	19:30
And Then We Danced   15	20:00
<b>TUESDAY 17TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	12:00★/16:30
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	16:45
Emma.   U	19:00
Royal Opera: Fidelio   Rating TBC	19:15
<b>WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	12:00★/16:15/18:30
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	16:15
A Quiet Place   15	18:45
A Quiet Place Part 2   15	20:30
Emma.   U	20:45
<b>THURSDAY 19TH MARCH</b>	
Onward   PG	12:00/16:45
And Then We Danced   15	14:30★
Sonic The Hedgehog   PG	17:00
A Quiet Place Part 2   15	19:15
Emma.   U	19:15



16TH & 19TH MARCH

**AUTISM FRIENDLY SCREENING ★ KIDS CLUB ★**  
MONTHLY SCREENING FOR AUTISM, SPECTRUM & OTHER FILM STARTS 10 MINS AFTER ADVERTISED TIME EVERY SATURDAY MORNING £3 A TICKET FOR ALL

**HOH SCREENING ★ SILVER SCREEN ★ PARENT & BABY ★**  
ENGLISH SUBTITLES ON SCREEN FOR THE HARD OF HEARING EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON £3 FOR THOSE 60 & OVER A CHANCE FOR NEW PARENTS TO SEE THE LATEST FILMS WITH BABY (UP TO 1 YEAR OLD) SOFTER VOLUME AND LIGHTS LEFT ON

**A QUIET PLACE PART I & II**  
SEE IT AT OBAN PHOENIX  
MARCH 18TH  
PART I: 18:15  
PART II: 20:15  
TICKETS SOLD SEPARATELY

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**  
**ROYAL BALLET: SWAN LAKE**  
WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 19:15 - LIVE VIA SATELLITE

Liam Scarlett's glorious production of Swan Lake, new in 2018, returns for its first revival. While remaining faithful to the Marius Petipa/Lev Ivanov text, Scarlett's additional choreography and John Macfarlane's magnificent designs breathe new life into what is arguably the best-known and most-loved classical ballet. The entire Company shines in this eternal tale of doomed love, a masterpiece filled with iconic moments. Tchaikovsky's first score for ballet soars with its symphonic sweep and combines perfectly with exquisite choreography from the grand pas de deux of Prince Siegfried and Odile to the swans at the lakeside. An intoxicating mix of spectacle and intimate passion, the overall effect is irresistible.

Please be advised, all films and showtimes are subject to change/availability with little or no notice. Booking is always recommended to avoid disappointment. Please check [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk) for more information about film certificates.

# Mull inspires theatre

by Fiona Scott  
[fscott@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fscott@obantimes.co.uk)



A raw howl of grief and an act of protest for what has already been lost and what could follow.

MAIM is a love song to the land and language of Mull, a burst of panic in the face of extinction, because the time to take action is running out.

This unique collaboration between Scotland's award-winning Gaelic theatre company Theatre Gu Leòr and the hugely successful contemporary Gaelic band WHYTE was inspired by their latest album, Tairm.

Having already taken in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness and Aberdeen, MAIM is on its way westwards, culminating in a performance at Mull Theatre on Saturday March 28.

Before then, however, the group will arrive in Oban and the Rockfield Centre will host a performance at the Corran Halls on Friday March 27, while other dates



include SEALL, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye (March 21), An Lanntair, Stornoway (March 24), Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula (March 25) and Castlebay School, Barra (March 26).

Including newly composed work by Ross Whyte, and

Gaelic lyrics and text by Alasdair C Whyte, in collaboration with the cast, MAIM is a departure for Theatre Gu Leòr from its Gaelic text-based work.

Collaborating with award-winning Irish choreographer Jessica Kennedy

**0% FINANCE AVAILABLE**

**Tralee Heating Services**

- Commercial Catering
- Oil Heating
- Commercial Heating
- LPG & Natural Gas
- Landlord & Safety certificates
- Installations
- Repairs
- Servicing

**All Heating Services for domestic, leisure & commercial**

T: 01631 720 255 M: 07590 440 877  
E: [traleebaygas@gmail.com](mailto:traleebaygas@gmail.com) W: [www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk](http://www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk)

**WIDE RANGE OF PRINTS AVAILABLE**  
Available online or from the galleries

Stunning collections of original artwork, prints, ceramics, Jewellery and historic memorabilia.

**Tarbert PA29 6UA, Tel: 01880 821170**  
Pop in or buy online at [www.theharbourgallery.com](http://www.theharbourgallery.com)  
Also at Argyle Street, Ullapool and 'The Gallery at the Royal' Tignabruaich

**THE HARBOUR GALLERY**

# collaboration

Alasdair C Whyte in MAIM.  
Photograph: Laurence Winram.

of Junk Ensemble, the piece will combine movement, live music, spoken word, and video designed by Lewis Den Hertog, with integrated BSL throughout.

MAIM is a call to action, giving voice to the frustrations of the next generation who care deeply about the crisis facing ar tìr agus ar teanga – our land and language.

Across the length and breadth of Scotland, place names created and used in Gaelic-speaking communities are being forgotten and their meanings lost, as land mismanagement, non-native tree planting and the effects of climate change threaten to drown the land and language.

Even as the success of Gaelic Medium Education grows and numbers of learn-

ers rise in the Central belt, the language is vanishing from the rural heartlands, in danger of becoming extinct.

Raised on Mull, Alasdair C Whyte of WHYTE was inspired by his post-doctoral research in the Celtic and Gaelic Department of the University of Glasgow into the place names of the Torsay region of Mull, and what is causing their disappearance.

'It's time for us, as Gaelic speakers, to realise once and for all that our language and culture are in no way inferior to English language and culture,' he said.

'The way to leave this toxic way of thinking in the past is to celebrate and honour the people who came before us and create new things in our language.

'I am hugely grateful to Theatre Gu Leòr for giving me a chance to do this in MAIM.'

MAIM is fully accessible to non-Gaelic speakers and has integrated BSL in every performance.

# Eigg's inaugural film festival to hatch in April

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The island of Eigg will host its first film festival this April with the programme themed around birds.

The festival will run from Friday April 17 to 20 with a selection of events, feature films, documentaries and shorts over the long weekend.

Starting on the Friday afternoon, there is something for everyone, with animations such as Chicken Run, to a midnight screening of Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds and documentaries for ardent bird watchers.

The archive film The Corncrake and the Croft is joined by new films, including Birds of Passage from France and The Eagle Huntress from Kazakhstan.

The short film programme includes animation and films on every aspect of bird



life, from murmuration to migration.

Dr Kenny Taylor will give a talk on how seabirds' global travels bring them back home to Eigg, while wildlife cameraman Jim Manthorpe and sound recordist Pete Smith will talk about, and show, films they've made for BBC, National Geographic, Channel 4 and others.

A bird-watching sail and walks series, sound recording workshop, a concert by Jenny Sturgeon and a special Bird Bubble Bath DJ set from Eigg's very own The Pictish Trail

with CineMor77's bird projections, complete the festival.

Festival Coordinator Lucy Conway said the dates were selected to fall after the Easter holidays and before the main tourist season when most islanders would be too busy to attend.

She said: 'We are hoping to attract people at the tail end of the Easter holidays to spend a day or even the whole weekend on this wonderful island, but we are anticipating half the audience will be visitors and the other half islanders.'

She continued: 'Adding a film festival to Eigg's year-round calendar of events is very exciting. Eigg has many iconic bird species and is a must-visit place for birdwatchers.'

'Eigg islanders love birds and understand visiting birdwatchers' fascination. We're really looking forward to enjoying four days sharing that passion through moving

image, guided walks, talks, workshops and more.'

A breakdown of the often confusing ferry service is available on the festival website and events have been scheduled to take it into account.

Robert Livingston, director Regional Screen Scotland, said: 'Regional Screen Scotland has long standing links with Eigg, through the visits of our Screen Machine mobile cinema, and so we're delighted that we have been able to support the very first Eigg Film Festival through our Local Film Festival Challenge Fund, made possible by funding from Creative Scotland.'

The event will take place in Eigg's Community Hall and in CineMor77's custom-built cinema yurt erected in the Lodge Gardens next door.

Tickets go on sale on Monday, March 9. Visit [www.eiggfilmfestival.com](http://www.eiggfilmfestival.com).

## Live at The Tayvallich Inn



Sat 28th March  
at 9pm  
**ARCHIE  
MCALLISTER  
AND  
ALEX MCALLISTER**  
on fiddle and  
accordion



### WINTER AT THE TAYVALLICH INN

We are open Tuesday to Sunday serving lunch and dinner from our winter menu.

See our website for full details and opening hours.

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL [www.tayvallichinn.com](http://www.tayvallichinn.com)

For reservations contact us on 01546 870282



**LORN  
DRAMA  
FESTIVAL**

**CORRAN HALLS, OBAN**

**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 7:30pm**

Tickets £7 concession £6  
Season Ticket £18 & £15

**Box office 01631 567333**

*Scottish charity number: SC025659*

### Time to chill out at The Alexandra Hotel

Come and enjoy our newly refurbished pool and steam room and stay a while longer to experience great food and drink and the most amazing views from the lounge or terrace.

#### Swim and Steam

only £6pp or £15 for a family of 4 (towels included)

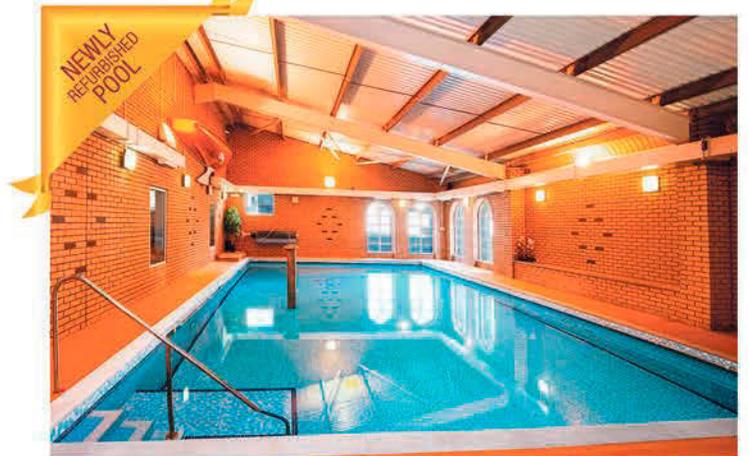
#### Sunrise Swim and Breakfast

enjoy a swim followed by a full buffet breakfast - £35 for 2 people (£18 for 1)

#### Sunset Swim and Supper

enjoy a swim at the end of the day, followed by a delicious 2-course meal for 2 £39.95 (£22 for 1).  
Pool open: 7am - 10am and 5pm - 10pm

**Come and experience our fabulous hotel - non residents welcome**



### BEST WESTERN MUTHU QUEENS CUANRA RESTAURANT MENU

Soup De Jour - £3.95 *Soup of the day Served with Garlic Bread*  
Cullen Skink - £4.50 *Smoked Haddock Poached in Milk & Cream with Diced Potatoes and served with Garlic Bread*

#### SALADS

Caesar Salad - £8.50 *Lettuce, Garlic Croutons, Anchovies, Parmesan Cheese*  
*Add Chicken Strips - £2.00*

Goat's Cheese Salad with Slow Cooked Beetroot & Orange - £8.50  
*Slow Cooked Beetroot, Fresh Orange, Rocket Leaves, Goat's Cheese & Lemon Pepper Dressing*

#### STARTERS

Chicken Liver Pate - £4.50 *Oat Cakes, Arran Tomato Chutney & Crisp Salad*  
Haggis Pakora with Bourbon Whisky Sauce - £5.50

Scottish Smoked Salmon Mousse with Horseradish & Capers - £7.50

Pan Seared King Prawns Served with Garlic Butter - £12.00

Spinach Pakora with Mint Mayo - £4.50

#### BURGERS & SANDWICHES

The Queens cheese Burger - £8.95 *Ground Beef, Bacon, Cheese, Lettuce and Tomatoes*

Chicken Burger - £8.95 *Chicken Pounder, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes*

Classic Ham and Cheese - £6.50 *Plain or Toasted*

*All the Burgers and Sandwiches are served with fries & coleslaw*

#### MAINS

Fish & Chips - £12.95 *Beer Battered Haddock Fillet with Chips, Mushy Peas & Tartar Sauce*

Scottish rainbow Trout steak - £15.95

*Pan Seared Rainbow Trout Steak Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Whisky Peppercorn Sauce*

Sea bream Fillet - £14.95

*Pan Seared Sea Bream Served with Roasted New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Lemon Cream Sauce*

Char Grilled sirloin steak - £18.95

*Char Grilled, served with Charred Asparagus, New Roasted Potatoes & Rosemary Glaze*

Lamb chops - £20.95

*Grilled to Perfection, Seasonal Vegetables, New Roasted Potatoes & Mint Glaze*

Chicken Makhani / Chicken Jalfrezi (Spicy) - £11.95 *Served with Cumin Pulao, Naan Bread & Poppadum*

Butternut Squash Spinach & Lentil Curry - £10.50

*Butter Nut Curry served with Cumin Pulao, Naan Bread & Poppadum*

Vegetable Lasagne - £7.95 *Served With pesto drizzle, parmesan cheese & garlic bread*

#### ADD A SIDE ORDER...

Garlic bread £3.95

Spicy Potato wedges / Mashed Potatoes / Buttered New Potatoes £3.95

Beer Battered Onion Rings £3.95 Buttered Vegetables £2.95 Mixed Salad Leaves £2.95

#### DESSERTS

Sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream - 5.95 Ginger Bread Cheese cake - 5.95

Belgian chocolate fondant with Vanilla ice cream 5.95 Profiteroles with Chocolate sauce and raspberries - 5.95

Ice cream Selection - 5.95 Selection of Scottish cheese - 6.95

*Served with Crackers, Tomato Chutney & Grapes*

### ALEXANDRA BAR MENU

#### STARTERS

Soup du jour £5.00

*(Chef's Special Seasonal Soup of the day with Crusty Bread & Butter)*

Cullen Skink £6.50

*(Scottish Soup with Smoked Haddock served with Crusty Bread & Butter)*

Smoked Salmon & dill cream cheese £9.50

*(With Capers, Lemon, Shallots, Melba toast & Mesclun mix)*

Salad Caprese £6.50

*(Tomato & Mozzarella salad with Mesclun, Pesto dressing & Balsamic glaze)*

Caesar Salad £8.00

*(Baby Gem Lettuce, Bacon, Parmesan, Croutons, Anchovy fillet & Caesar Dressing)*

Brussels Pate £8.50

*(Chicken Liver Pate with Red Onion Marmalade, Oat cakes & Salad)*

#### MAIN COURSES

Steak Pie £17.50

*(With Flaky Pastry, Vegetables Medley & Mash Potatoes)*

Chicken Tikka Masala £18.50

*(Chicken cooked in Indian Spices, Steamed Rice, Naan and Mango Chutney)*

Alexandra Burgers £10.50

*(Beef or Butterfly Chicken burger with Tomato and Cumin Relish, Bacon, Cheddar Cheese & Baby Gem in Brioche bun)*

Fish & chips £14.50

*(Crispy batter fried haddock with mushy peas, grilled lemon, chips & tartar sauce)*

Pan seared Scotch feather blade Steak £19.50

*(Grilled Tomato, Forest Mushrooms, Onion rings, Chips and peppercorn Sauce)*

Vegetable fajitas (v) £16.00

*(Mexican vegetable mix rolled in tortilla with chips, sour cream guacamole & salsa)*

Wild forest mushroom Risotto with Blue Cheese and Spinach (v) £9.50

#### Sides to orders : £2.00

Thick cut Chips

Spiced potato wedges

Sweet potato fries

Garlic Bread

Battered Onion Rings

#### DESSERTS

Walnut & Banana toffee pudding £7.50

*(With Toffee sauce, fresh cream & berries)*

Baked Rhubarb & Custard crumble cheese cake £7.50

Belgian chocolate fondant with vanilla ice cream & strawberries £8.50

Ice-cream sampler £6.30

*(Chocolate, Strawberry, Vanilla, Fresh Raspberries)*

Cheese platter £12.50

*(5 types of Cheese with Plum and Apple chutney, Forest Berries, Grapes and Cheese crackers)*

If you have any food allergies or intolerances, please discuss this with the waiting team

**MUTHU**  
**ALEXANDRA**  
**OBAN**  
★★★  
TEL: 01631 562381



# Get your boat ready to launch!



- NEW MOORINGS
- MOORING INSPECTIONS
- DIVE SPECIALISTS
- MARINE CIVIL ENGINEERING
- PONTOON INSTALLATIONS AND INSPECTIONS
- AQUACULTURE/ FISH FARM WORK

Address:  
7E Glengallan Road,  
Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
Email: [Julie@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:Julie@northwestmarine.co.uk)  
Tel: 01631 565652  
Web: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)



With the boating season fast approaching, it's time to gear up and get your boat ready for the water and the forthcoming summer season.

Many owners want their craft launched for Easter weekend in early April and have booked slots with their boatyard. Getting a time for launching should be planned well in advance to avoid disappointment at this busy time of year. So contact the yard and co-ordinate to get a launch date if not already booked.

The poor weather over the last couple of months may have delayed essential maintenance being carried out on boats. With an improving prospect and better temperatures on the horizon, it's now time to 'bite the bullet' and get moving. There's nothing like a deadline to work to!

For many, fitting out is always last minute and it's important to prioritise jobs. If work is required from one of the boat professionals get in touch as soon as possible to book a slot since this is their busiest time of year.

Set your workload list down alongside tools and specific materials required. Add to this a general array of rags, silicone and grease, petroleum jelly, lubricating and penetrating oils, cleaning products, brushes, wet and dry sandpaper, rollers and tray, degreaser, rolls of tape, engine spares and treatments for your water and fuel tanks. It's often the best idea to work from the outside in so that if you run out of time to launch any work required inside can be done when the boat is in the water.





**Creran Marine**

- **Moorings available for this season**
  - **Storage**
  - **Indoor units**
- **Beta marine dealer**



Creran Marine Ltd - Barcaldine - Oban - PA37 1SG  
[www.creranmarine.co.uk](http://www.creranmarine.co.uk)  
 Email: [office@creranmarine.co.uk](mailto:office@creranmarine.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01631720308 Tel: 07919 414 453



**OUTSIDE - HULL, TOPSIDES, KEEL ETC**

Take a close look over the keel and keelboats for signs of rusting or pitting and wear at the keel to hull joint that may be more evident after winter layup. Deep pitting on the keel may indicate anode problems and will need taken back to bare metal and an epoxy protective coating applied before anti-fouling. Call in the professionals if anything looks suspect, for example movement between the keel and hull. It may be necessary to check the keel bolts.

Look over the rudder and skeg fitments as well as the propeller and check for any play in bearings, stock or quadrant. Make sure the bonding wires from the anode are sound and replace the anode as required. Grease the shaft, steering cables and the log's paddle wheel.

If antifouling has built up then removing it is difficult and time consuming. However, it pays off since it improves the efficiency of boat movement in the water. A variety of scrapers are available but care needs to be taken not to damage the hull, whether this is gel coat or wood or other. If going to the trouble of full removal, it pays to apply a protective epoxy coating before re-anti-fouling. There are a number of products on the market so seek advice from your chandlery for the best one. If not fully removing the anti-fouling, then sand over the surface with wet and dry to give a good key for the new paint. A smooth surface will pay dividends for re-application and help reduce fouling for the season. Remember to wear fully protective clothing and a face mask.

The choice of anti-fouling products on the market is huge ranging from powerboat finishes to cruising and racing



**KMASS MARINE**  
 DIVING SERVICES LTD MARINE SERVICES

**Professional Accredited Diving Services**

- Marina's/ Moorings
- Hull Inspections
- Construction
- Surveys

**FULLY CREWED MULTICAT AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

Contact Oban based Kevin Healey  
**07824 504774 or email**  
**[kmassmarine@gmail.com](mailto:kmassmarine@gmail.com)**

# Trail West

Trailer Centre, Oban Tel: 01631 563638  
[trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net)

*An Aladdin's cave for anyone who Tows*



- Boat trailers supplied - *from dinghies to cruisers*
- Trailer servicing & repairs - *All makes repaired*
- Spare parts from stock - *Extensive range available*
- Tow-bars supplied & fitted

SUPPLYING TRAILERS  
SINCE 1980

3-4 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HA  
 Telephone (01631) 563638 [trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net)

coatings. The choice will depend on boat type and use and location of mooring. Advice from a chandler or boatyard and fellow boat owners in the same area will ensure the best decision on product.

Apply according to instructions with a stronger build-up in high impact areas – the leading edge of the keel and skeg and the keel to hull joint. A long handled radiator roller can be a good option to give an even finish with a paint brush to reach more inaccessible points. Some antifouling requires only one application; others need a few depending on longevity required. If stored on a cradle or stocks, leave some antifouling for painting the underside of the keel and cradle support points before the boat is launched while in the hoist.

The topsides will require a thorough clean up and polish. Repair any problem area such as chips or crazing in the gelcoat as required. Where gelcoat is older it may need hard work to get the original finish back. Then apply a protective wax and polish well to keep the boat looking pristine throughout the season. Again, an extensive range of products is on offer for all requirements.



DECK GEAR, RIGGING AND ANCHORS

Over the winter, dirt, debris and verdigris will have built up on deck if the boat is outside and will need a good scrubbing with perhaps an anti-mould treatment. Teak decks require their own specialist treatment and there is advice on what best to use from the chandlery and on-line forums. Deck gear needs checking for wear and tear if this was not done at layup. Check the stanchion bases for any cracks and any corrosion in lifelines, particularly under plastic sheathing. Replace if suspect. Inspect rigging on for broken strands and any cracking at terminals and renew if necessary. Remember if any aspect of rigging is dangerous, boat insurance could be invalid. Your local sail rigging firm specialist will carry out a rig inspection for you if you are in any doubt. It's good to have a check over from the professionals since they can correctly

tension the rig which improves efficiency under sail.

Instrumentation and furling equipment at the masthead should be checked in case work is required before the mast is stepped.

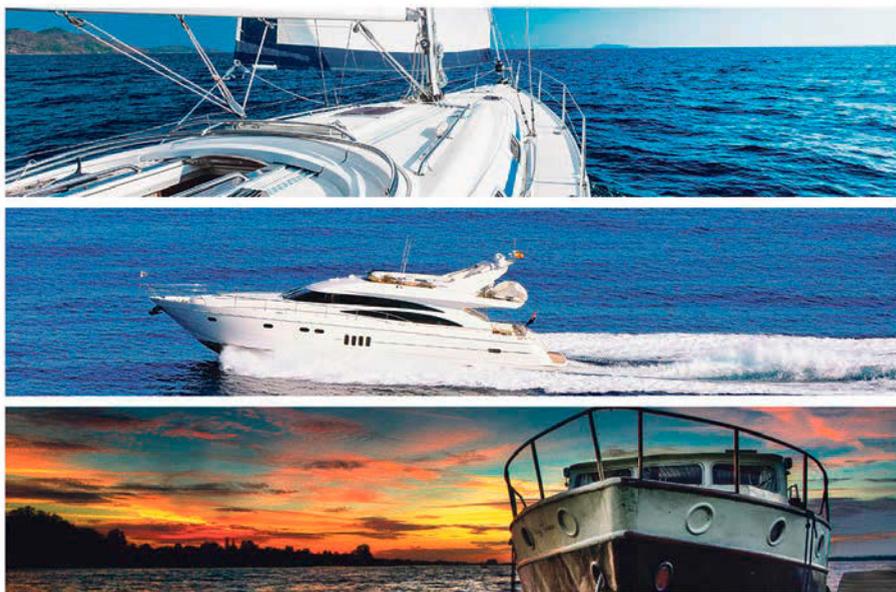
Winches need to be overhauled. Strip down any that are seized – soak components in degreaser and re-grease. If warps and sheets were removed for winter then this is the time to check over, renew and replace as required.

Similarly, look for corrosion on anchors and chain. Clean manual windlasses, check for wear and grease. Remove the gypsy in powered versions, grease the drum, look at the foot switch for wear, clean and grease electrical connections.

**BUTE  
BERTHING  
COMPANY**

Step ashore from our fully-serviced harbour pontoons in the heart of the historic town of Rothesay, gateway to the beautiful Isle of Bute.

Tel: 07799 724225  
Email: info@buteberthing.com  
Web: www.buteberthing.com  
VHF Channel M1/37 for berthing assistance



**DESIGN, INSTALL,  
SURVEY & MANAGE**  
We cater for all your marine electrical needs.

Contact Manuel Lombard on 07914323711  
or lombardelectrical@gmail.com



**LOMBARD  
Electrical**



**Full range of anodes  
and Hempel Antifoul  
JUST £70!**

**Oban's best stocked chandlery - on the outskirts of the town, at Dunstaffnage Marina**

- Great service
- Keen prices
- Quick ordering service
- A family run business
- Stockists of Hempel, International, Holt, Lewmar, Jabsco, Raymarine, Crewsaver, Gill, Orca Bay and many others.

**Alba Sailing for all your chandlery and sailing equipment needs**

Alba Sailing, Dunstaffnage Marina, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PX  
www.alba-sailing.co.uk Tel - 01631 565630

All wood on deck, teak slats etc should be cleaned, or if preferred oiled or varnished and paintwork touched up and stainless polished. This is an ideal time also for cleaning and maintenance of spray hoods and other cockpit coverings.

**THE POWERHOUSE - ENGINES FUEL TANKS AND GAS SYSTEMS**

Both inboards and outboards need serviced and this is most often done by a professional whether by your boatyard or an independent engineer.

If carrying out your own service, the oil, filters and anodes

Northern Lighthouse Board [www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk)



**THE NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD - OBAN**

NLB is the General Lighthouse Authority responsible for Scotland and the Isle of Man providing Aids to Navigation around the coast and overseeing Aids to Navigation provided by Ports and Harbours for the benefit and safety of all mariners. It has operated its base at Oban on the west Coast of Scotland since 1904. The base has excellent facilities for ship, buoy and engineering project; support and mobilisation.

**Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4LS**  
Tel: 01631 562146 Fax: 01631 565871  
Email: [enquiries@nlb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nlb.org.uk)

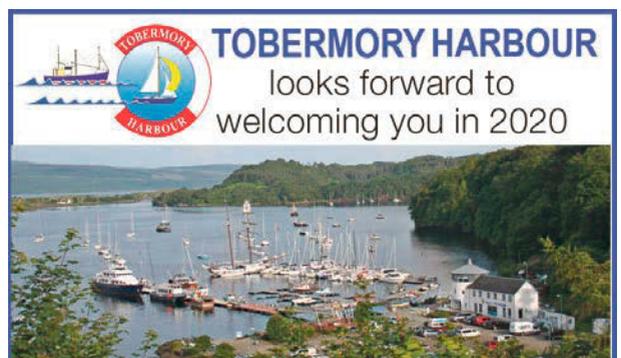
**Owen Sails**

Sail and cover valeting  
New sails, covers, rigging,  
furling gear  
Rig inspection,  
tuning and service.

Tel. 01631 720485  
[www.owensails.com](http://www.owensails.com)  
Tralee Bay, Benderloch,  
by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QR



**TOBERMORY HARBOUR**  
looks forward to  
welcoming you in 2020



[www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk](http://www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk)  
Call 07917 832497 or 01688 302876

MOORINGS FOR HIRE - PONTOON BERTHS - DINGHY BERTHS  
ANCHORAGE - FUEL - WATER - ELECTRICITY - WI-FI  
SHOWERS - TOILETS - LAUNDRY - MEETING ROOM  
AIR COMPRESSOR

Europe's first  
catch and release aquarium  
**Mull Aquarium**

VHF 68




should be renewed and exhaust fittings checked. Inspect impellers, engine belt tension and mounts as well as the underside of the shaft – re bed if any leaks are apparent. It's essential to keep spares of everything you think you may need on the boat during the season so order two of everything and store onboard in case required.

With sail-drives check the oil level and gaiter seal as well as the earthing wires from the starter motor. Replace if there is any wear on hose and electrical connections.

Check out the state of boat batteries which need to be up to charge and holding before launching. Ideally, batteries will have been stored on trickle charge over lay-up, so if not, re-charge now and monitor electrolyte levels if unsealed. Ensure the battery tray is dry and tighten securing straps making sure all gas vents are clear. Clean terminals and coat with petroleum jelly.

Fuel tanks should be full from laying up. If not, drain water off and treat with a diesel biocide. Inspect the gas system regularly and thoroughly. A qualified gas engineer will ensure the system conforms to current gas regulations and any suspect hoses and fittings should be replaced to manufacturer's recommendations.

**INSIDE THE BOAT - BILGES AND SEACOCKS**

It's a good idea to start from the bilges up. Inspect pump impellers and gaskets, grease and replace if necessary. With automatic bilge pumps, see float switches work and the strum box is clear. Manual strum boxes should be pumped through to see hose is clear of blockages. Service seacocks.

**CABIN**

Most owners install a de-humidifier and heater over the winter to keep mould at bay so the interior should be dry. Clean up if not already attended to over the winter. Wash out all the lockers before replacing equipment and remember to display a list of where everything is stored in the boat. Clean the galley and check burners on gas cookers. Look over berth cushions and other soft furnishings checking for any damp if they have not been taken off for the winter for storage. Re-install for the season ahead and keep everything well aired.

**WATER TANKS AND HEADS**

Any water left in the water tank should be pumped through and a purifier added before re-filling for use. Flush through the heads adding washing up liquid/vinegar to lubricate the hoses and pumps. Check the boat's central heating system is working and maintain as required. Re-install any communication, navigation and other equipment that was removed for winter storage.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

The best time to go over safety equipment is at the end of the season which allows time to store properly and replace items if there are any issues. However, if this hasn't been done, it's essential now to see all equipment is in good condition since lives may depend on it. Fire extinguishers, flares, life-rafts, life-jackets should be inspected with items needing replaced or repaired if in any doubt as to condition of if out of date. It is also vital you check to make sure your vessel has the correct amount of flotation devices for the crew. Invert MOB lights to see they work and change bulb and batteries if not. Some WD40 on the copper contact strip inside should ensure good

connection. Silicone grease rubber seals. The RNLI will carry out a free safety check on your boat equipment and lifeboat stations will check your lifejackets – this is really worthwhile. Liferrafts need to be inspected and if not already sent away for an overhaul, do so now. Similarly dinghy tenders should be blown up and checked for leaks and repaired as necessary.

Make an inventory of where safety equipment is stored and display prominently in boat – items can then be found quickly and easily in an emergency.

**SAILS AND SPRAYHOODS**

Sails are the powerhouse of the sailing vessel so it's important they are in good condition and sailmakers are on hand for advice on any aspect. With everyone pushing to get their boats ready for launching, the sail loft has their busiest time of year now, so book a slot early to get sails checked over and repaired or replaced as required. Similarly sprayhoods and other outdoor canvas should be checked for wear. If new sails are needed, order as soon as possible.

**EXPERT ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEASON**

Professional advice is on hand from boatyards, engineers, marine service and repair firms as well as chandlers and sail-makers. Each has their own area of expertise and don't hesitate to contact them for advice and to carry out work as required.

Whatever your plans are for getting out on the water - whether it be cruising, racing, fishing or just pottering about with your boat, enjoy a safe and successful 2020 season.



TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000  
 Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm  
 E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
 Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Sponsored by  
 NFU Mutual Oban.  
 Call Euan Warnock and  
 Donna MacDougall on  
 01631 567 036 for  
 your insurance needs

# New advice aims to help tenant farmers diversify

Scottish tenant farmers who are planning to diversify into areas such as tourism or renewable energy can now get advice on their rights from a new guide.

Published this week by the Tenant Farming Commissioner, the guide looks at what tenant farmers need to do when they're planning to diversify.

Already more than half of farms in Scotland have diversified into areas ranging from campsites and glamping pods, to wind turbines and farm shops – and the trend is set to continue as farmers look for ways to enhance their livelihoods.

Those farms with some form of diversification generate significantly more income each year than those that do not, according to the Scottish Government Farm Business Income Estimates report (2017-18).

In Scotland, provided tenant farmers follow the correct procedures and get



**Garden centres are also another way for farmers to diversify.**

pensation, if the value of the land has been reduced by the diversification. However, the right to compensation may not apply if the diversification is such that the land cannot be used for agriculture by an incoming tenant.

Speaking about the new guide, Bob McIntosh, Tenant Farming Commissioner, said: 'More and more farmers are set to diversify, as agricultural subsidies decline post-Brexit. I expect that another driver will be climate change, as farmers seek more innovative uses for land.'

'Diversifying can be profitable and straightforward – provided tenants and landlords agree the scope of the diversification up front and follow the correct process. Diversification can help to protect the viability of farms and livelihoods.'

their landlord's consent to their plans, there is no limit on the amount of the holding that can be used for diversification. The law sets out a clear timetable, summarised in the guide, for any tenant farmer seeking to get their landlord's permission to diversify part – or all – of their holding.

Tenants must send a formal 'notice of diversification' to their landlord, although an initial informal discussion

is often the best way to kick-start the process, enabling both parties to agree on how the project should proceed.

The new guide also sets out what should happen at the end of the lease. Diversification may have increased the value of the holding and in these cases, provided the correct process has been followed, compensation may be due to the tenant. Equally the landlord may be entitled to com-

## Around the markets

**Monday March 9:** Caledonian Marts Ltd had forward 462 Store Cattle at its March show and sale, sponsored by HRN Tractors, and 537 store and breeding sheep at its fortnightly sale.

The show was judged by Tommy Taylor, Heatheryhall, Thankerton and sponsored by HRN Tractors, Stirling.

Overall champion on the day went to a single Limousin bullock from D & L Graham, Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, which weighed in at 480kg and sold for £1,190 purchased by the judge, Tommy Taylor.

**Prize List**

**Single bullock**

- 1 and champion – D & L Graham, Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond
- 2 – J Campbell, Forthview, Blackness
- 3 – D & L Graham, Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond

**Single heifer**

- 1 – J Campbell, Forthview, Blackness
- 2 – Angle Park, Melville Gate, Ladybank

**Pen of four Bullocks**

- 1 – J Bilsland, Spittal, Croftamie
- 2 – W Paterson, South Ailey, Helensburgh
- 3 – Angle Park, Melville Gate, Ladybank

**Pen of four Heifers**

- 1 – R McNee, Woodend, Armadale
- 2 – J & D Mitchell, Offers, Stirling

Bullocks sold to 277ppkg for a pen of Aberdeen Angus from J McColl, Blairlusk, Gartocharn and to £1,200 twice for Simmentals from Angle Park Farming, Melville Gate, Ladybank and from J Bilsland, Spittal, Croftamie. Heifers sold to 233p for a Charolais from J M Fisher, Meikle Larbrax, Stranraer, and to £1,160 for a pen of Simmentals from Angle Park Farming, Melville Gate, Ladybank.

Black and Whites sold to 168ppkg from J McLean, Kilmaho, Campbeltown and to £820 for a pen of Friesians from J Patterson, Low Three Mark, Stranraer.

**Other leading prices:**

- Bullocks per head: £1,190 Mains of Burnbank and Eorabus (Islay)
- £1,180 Angle Park (Twice)
- £1,160 South Ailey
- £1,150 Spittal
- £1,140 Angle Park
- Heifers per head: £1,130 Angle Park
- £1,090 Wester Braco, Angle Park and Westerton
- £1,050 Spittal
- £1,030 Angle Park
- £,020 Barbeth
- Bullocks per kg: 255p Lyleston
- 254p Gartnagrenach
- 250p Meikle Seggie
- 248p and 247p Mains of Burnbank
- 244p Shortrigg
- Heifers per kg: 230p Angle Park and Middle Bankhead;
- 226p Woodcockdale
- 224p Angle Park and Woodcockdale;
- 223p Offers

Also forward were 537 store hoggets, feeding sheep and grit ewes.

All classes of hoggets a similar trade to the last sale.

Top price of the day was for a pen of Beltex Hoggets, selling to £96 from H Aird, Harelaw Farm, Crook of Devon.

Grit ewes sold to £108 for BF ewes scanned twins to a BF Tup from W More & Son, Castle Rednock, Port of Menteith.

Hoggets leading prices: Beltex £94 Harelaw; Suffolk £93 Starchmill (Isle of Islay); Suffolk X £90 Meikle Camoquhill; Texel X £90 Starchmill (Isle of Islay); Cross £90 Harelaw; Continental £86 Brownieside; BF £73 Rossal Estates (Isle of Mull); Grit Ewe Prices; BF Scanned Singles £100 Castle Rednock.

**S&S SERVICES**

WINNER PICK-UP OF THE YEAR 2018  
 WINNER PICK-UP OF THE YEAR 2019  
 WINNER PICK-UP OF THE YEAR 2020

Full stock list available on our website  
[www.sandsservices.co.uk](http://www.sandsservices.co.uk)  
 T 07831 808702 or 01292 880080  
 Finance packages available.

To find out more about the NFU Vehicle Discount Scheme call John Spicer at S&S Services on 07831 808702 or 01292 880080

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) are inviting

**Applications for grazing opportunities** at Savary, Aoinidh Mhor and Glenrigh in Lochaber, West Region.

Full details and applications forms can be found on our website at: <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/business-and-services/grazing-opportunities>

**The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31st March 2020, at 12 noon.**

For further information please contact Henry Dobson or Lyndsay Sharp at the FLS office at Torlundy on: 0300 067 6650.

find us on **facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

**Invitation to Tender: Mink trapping**

Scottish Natural Heritage invite tenders from suitable contractors to re-establish mink control along the Isle of Mull and Morvern shoreline adjacent to the Glas Eileanan islets in order to reduce predation of the common tern (Sterna hirundo) colony. Glas Eileanan is a Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for breeding common tern.

We will accept tender submissions for trapping on Glas Eileanan, Eilean Rubha an Ridire, the adjacent Isle of Mull coastline and the mainland coastline of Morvern for 5 years running from April 2020 to March 2025.

The statement of requirements is available from Sally Weaser by emailing [sally.weaser@nature.scot](mailto:sally.weaser@nature.scot)

**Tenders are required by Monday 23rd March 2020 at 12 noon.**

Scottish Natural Heritage, Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AE  
 Tel: 0300 244 9360 [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)  
 Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Taigh Chamshron, Sràid Albanaidh, An t-Òban, Earra-Ghàidheal PA34 4DN  
 Fòn: 0300 244 9360 [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)



**DERBI TERRA ADVENTURE 125CC 2016**

Learner legal adventure style 125cc. Excellent condition, superb bike. Registered 25/7/16. Only 4,200 miles. MOT till 24/7/20. Serviced, new battery.  
**£1,850**

**Tel 07786543773**



**COLVIC COUNTESS 28**

1992, beam, 10'1, draft 3'8, GRP hull+deck, Lister Alpha 20hp inboard, Bilge keel  
**£4,999**

**Tel 07801 590235**

**WANTED**

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

**T: 07885 203020 or E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**



**BMW 125D M-SPORT 2-DOOR HATCHBACK**

8-speed semi-auto & paddleshift, 218bhp 60mpg 41000 mls. Full service history Winter tyres  
**£14,500 Finance available**

**Tel 07768 280010**

**WANTED MOTOR HOMES**

Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

**Contact William 07730 130284  
email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

**WANTED**

All types of 4x4's, Landrover Toyota, Nissan etc... We also buy MOT failures and accident damage vehicles. Anything considered.

**Tel: 01250 884306 or  
M: 07885 203020**

**WANTED 4X4S FOR CASH**



**WANTED ALL 4X4'S & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

We buy for retail, breaking and export so no matter the age or condition we can make a cash offer. Young or old, all makes and models, engine problems, farm used, accident damaged, mot failures etc.

**WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE, FAST PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.**

**5 years warranty**

**5 years Roadside Assist**

**5 years Finance available**

**WITH THE MAXUS RANGE**



**Only 1 left**

**4 metre Dropside Body**  
cruise, air-conditioning etc.  
**£13795**  
+ Vat & Road Tax

Call us now for more details of the versatile 2.5 6 speed range of commercials & minibuses that offer great value and include high specification features.

**Luton Van**  
500kg power tail lift, cruise, air-conditioning  
From **£16995**  
+ Vat & Road Tax

**Euro 6 LWB Hi Top**  
cruise, air-conditioning etc.  
From **£14995**  
+ Vat & Road Tax

**Euro 6 SWB**  
cruise, air-conditioning etc.  
From **£13995**  
+ Vat & Road Tax

**AUTO SERVICES PERTH LTD.**

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9.00am-5.00pm Saturday 9.00am-12 noon



**autoservicesperthltd.co.uk**

**01738 210000 or 07718 108 110**

**RUTHVENFIELD WAY PH1 3UF**

## WANTED

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

**Tel: 07546 788945**



### SKODA YETI ELEGANCE 1.6 DIESEL

2014 49,000 miles, Side step and towbar, roof bars and rails, £30 road tax, Any trial welcome, Can be delivered at a cost. VGC, Excellent runner, 4 new tyres  
**£7150**

**Tel 07786 864877**



### TOYOTA HILUX, 2013, 2.5

35+mpg, 139,000 miles, total rebuilt gearbox, new clutch, new intercooler, timing belt been done, refurb wheels, any trial welcome on/off road, in VGC, drives and runs perfect with no faults, can be delivered at your cost  
**Price dropped to sell £7,500 no VAT**

**Tel 0131 660 1061**

## WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures, High Mileage. etc considered. Best prices paid. Will collect.

**T: 07546 788945**

### ABBAY VOGUE GTS 416 CARAVAN

Includes Dishes, Plug in Cable, Kettle, Gas, Toaster, Motor Mover, Cutlery, New Carpet, Radio. Basically ready to go. Must be seen.  
**£3,500**

**Tel 01546 603865 (Ardishaig)**

## CARS WANTED

Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.

**Tel: 07759054754**



### VOLVO V50 R DESIGN ESTATE 2010

Diesel 2.0 D Full Leather  
67,000 miles  
**£4,500 ono**

**Tel 01700 811522**

**DRIVETIMES NOW ONLY**

**£32.80**

IF UNSOLD AFTER 1ST WEEK JUST CALL BEFORE TUESDAY 3PM TO GET YOUR SECOND WEEK FREE

**Tel: 01631 568000**



### 2015 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCI

Hatchback, Manual, diesel. A fantastic clean well looked after 2 owner car that runs like a dream. Mileage is 96,600 and MOT due 26 July 2020.  
**Price £6200**

**Tel 07464 619228**

## WANTED

For immediate cash payment and free collection all types of 4x4 vehicles double cab and single cabs pickups shogun landrover defenders Isuzu Landcruiser Navara I200 Toyota Hilux discovery any vehicle considered old or new any condition running or not high miles rotten chassis over heating top price paid without any hassle we also buy motorhomes touring caravans and commercial vans and trucks.

**Tel 07703490572**

**or email balgowan4wd@gmail.com ask for Robert**

# HUGE SELECTION OF CAR TYRES IN STOCK.

**CHANCES ARE, YOU WON'T NEED TO WAIT!!**



by Continental



## PIER GARAGE

Ardishaig, Lochgilhead PA30 8DZ

Tel: 01546 603055 Email: admin@pier-garage.co.uk

**NEW  
CAR  
INDEX**



**Gordon Motors**  
UK Dealer Of The Year 2014  
Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire  
PH7 4BQ  
Tel. 01764 652125  
Delivery throughout the West  
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors



**W.D. Semple**  
www.wdsemple.com  
Inveraray Shore Street  
Tel. 01499 302150  
Lochgilhead  
Highbank Park  
01546 606767/ 606272



**S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080  
01292 880440



**S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080  
01292 880440



**S & S Services**  
Old Bridge Road,  
Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080/880440

# SUBARU ISUZU S&S SERVICES

SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER



SUBARU

Confidence in Motion



AMAZING OFFERS ON SUBARU  
DEMONSTRATOR & PRE-REGISTERED MODELS  
AT S&S SERVICES SPRING SALE

STARTS 10th MARCH TILL 30th APRIL 2020

(**BETTER** where it **MATTERS**)

BUY A NEW SUBARU YOUR WAY WITH S&S SERVICES



0% APR  
50% Deposit  
50% Due in 2 years\*

\*terms and conditions apply



Subaru Loyalty Offer  
£2,000 Voucher (inc VAT)  
off your new Subaru\*

\*terms and conditions apply

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF ARGYLL FOR OVER 30 YEARS  
HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 9SX TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN: 07831 808702



Independent Audi Specialist



Independent Porsche Specialist



Independent BMW Specialist

0141 952 4499

0141 952 3039

www.a4audi.co.uk www.p4porsche.co.uk www.b4bmw.co.uk

Courtesy car or vehicle collection available

BOOK NOW

AND SAVE UP TO

30% Off

MAIN DEALER LABOUR COSTS



Our current West coast campaign consists of the following options

1. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment and wait with a coffee whilst your car is being looked after. Continue on with your day.

2. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, collect your free courtesy car and go about your business. Collect your car at the end of the day.

3. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, collect your free courtesy car and return home to the

West Coast. We will deliver your car home to you and collect the courtesy car for an additional fee of £50.00.

4. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, if you are going on holiday and flying between Monday – Friday, between 8am - 5pm we would be

more than happy to drop you at Glasgow airport and make further arrangements for your return.

Visit our websites for more information or give our service desk a call and speak with Veronica, Andrew or Andy who will happy to assist.

SERVICING • MOT • DIAGNOSTICS • REMAPPING • CAR HEALTH CHECK • GENERAL AUDI/BMW/PORSCHE REPAIRS • AUDI/BMW/PORSCHE APPROVED PARTS • 2 YEARS PARTS GUARANTEES • 5 YEAR LABOUR WARRANTY

A For Audi | B For BMW | P for Porsche | 6-8 Andrew Court | Clyde Street | Clydebank | G81 1PF  
0141 952 4499 | info@a4audi.co.uk | www.a4audi.co.uk | www.b4bmw.co.uk | www.p4porsche.co.uk

# Independent Audi, Porsche & BMW specialists

We can deliver all you would expect from a franchise dealer and more. Not only do we achieve that, we can save you up to 30% on labour cost!

Regardless whether your car is a lease car, personally owned, new or old or still under manufacturer's warranty we can take care of it.

We deal directly with most major motor groups

including Arnold Clark, Peter Vardy, Macklin Motors and Evans Halshaw to name a few.

We have built our first class reputation over the last thirteen years and would like to invite you to visit any of our websites and view our 5 star Google reviews.

We strive to deliver you a first class service coupled with top quality workmanship on every occasion

and promise to deliver you unbeatable value for money.

It has now been five years since we introduced our "West coast Driver campaign".

As this has been tremendously successful for us and we would like to grow our customer base further in the west coast area.

# PET IDOL

## £3000 WINNERS PRIZE

**THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE**

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

[www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol](http://www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol)

Get the pet shampoo, cute ribbons and inappropriate clothing ready - Entry is now open for our 2020 Pet Idol competition. If you have a cool cat, pampered pooch or any other gorgeous bundle of fur, feathers or even scales, now is your chance to win our £300 first prize. That buys an awful lot of cat litter or you might even prefer to spend it on yourself (just don't tell the mutt!)

**THERE WILL ALSO BE TWO RUNNER-UP PRIZES OF £50**

#### How to enter

Our pet idol competition is open to all pets belonging to households across Argyll and Lochaber. Just take a snap of your pet and upload your photograph and details by visiting [www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol](http://www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol)

Photographs must have been taken on or after 1st January 2020 (we don't want pictures of cute kittens that are now the size of Bagpuss!!)

#### Our Pet Idol 2020 Supplement

After you enter your pet, look out for our fantastic Pet idol supplement on 2nd April. This will give you the chance to boast to your friends that your little fur-ball really is the cutest thing in Argyll and the West Highlands!!

#### Vote for your favourite

Readers will then have the serious job of voting for their favourite pet in the supplement. We will then break it down to further rounds of 100, 50, 25 and a final top 10. The pet with the most votes will be crowned our Pet idol champion early in June 2020 - Good luck

**The closing date for entries is midnight on Sunday 22nd March 2020**

#### Terms and conditions

Wyvex Media's Pet Idol 2020 competition is open to all pets of owners living in the circulation area of the Oban Times and Lochaber Times. Photographs must have been taken on or after 1st January 2020. Pictures of deceased pets are ineligible. Pictures should only contain one pet. Readers can enter more than one pet, but each pet must have a separate entry. By entering the competition, you agree that Wyvex Media Ltd has the right to publish the images and details of your pet without payment for the purposes of promoting the Pet Idol campaign(s). The winning pet and owner must take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter.

#### We care about your personal information

The information gathered on the entry form will be used by us to contact you regarding the competition & the photo and name to enter you into the competition. We may also email you at the close of the competition. We will not pass on any of the information supplied by you in the entry form to any third party unless you specifically chose to let us do so. If you choose not to be added to our mailing list we will destroy the information provided by you 4 weeks after the competition winner is announced.

SPONSORED BY

**crown  
vets**

**The vets your pets  
would choose**

**Crown Vets, Glen Nevis Place,  
Fort William PH33 6DA  
Tel: 01397 702727  
[info@crownvetsfortwilliam.co.uk](mailto:info@crownvetsfortwilliam.co.uk)**

**OFFERS & competitions**

**WIN**  
WIN £200 WORTH OF FERRY TRAVEL



With 2020 being the Year of Coasts and Waters, make the most of your time on the west coast of Scotland with incredible destinations, events, activities and longer island hopping adventures. Step onto any CalMac Ferries and you are at the heart of island life on the West Coast of Scotland. You cannot think of the West Coast of Scotland, including the Clyde, without thinking of Caledonian MacBrayne, known affectionately as CalMac.

In fact life without the ferry operator would be unthinkable; it is part of island life and has been since the foundation of David Hutchison and Co, steamship company in 1851. It is woven into our culture. Hutchison began a service that ran from Glasgow to Inverness, via the Crinan and Caledonian canals, stopping at Oban and Fort William along the way. Fast forward 169 years and CalMac now provide 130,000 annual sailings carrying over 5.25 million passengers, ranging from five-minute crossings to seven hour sailings. 28 routes keep Highland and island life moving. Livestock and fish get to market and people go about their business just as they always have done. Tourism brings people from all over the world and makes the Hebrides some of Scotland's most popular holiday destinations.

Glorious beaches, picturesque landscapes, stunning wildlife and warm hospitality - all of this and more makes for an unforgettable adventure on the west coast of Scotland. Check out the plethora of island hopping adventures available on the CalMac website.

For your chance to win, simply answer the question below.  
**How many passengers did CalMac carry in 2019?**

Competition details as follows: The winner, selected at random from all correct entries will receive £200 of travel vouchers, valid until 31 December 2020, to be redeemed against any available crossing within the CalMac network.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 April 2020. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words "OPT IN" on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 5 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

**BOOK YOUR  
TICKETS  
NOW!**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
SCOTTISH RURAL  
AWARDS 2020  
AT THE GLASGOW HILTON  
2ND APRIL 2020  
A GLITTERING BLACK-TIE GALA  
DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY,  
HOSTED BY OUR FAVOURITE  
FARMER COMEDIAN, JIM SMITH**



**Book your tickets at  
[www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org)  
Or call 0131 551 7936**

# RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**HIJOBS**  
Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

## Fish Farmer Magazine

Established 1977

### Editor

Industry leading magazine and website  
Edinburgh or Oban office

Competitive Salary + Benefits

As Editor you will be responsible for managing the day to day production of the print title "Fish Farmer" as well as sourcing and contributing news to the website and associated social media. Industry experience or B2B experience would be preferred, but not essential - you may be a talented journalist or editor looking to move into a B2B role.

The applicant will be commercially minded, and close liaison with the sales team will be required.

The role involves writing and commissioning articles, working closely with freelancers, contributors, trade bodies and an editorial advisory board to implement ideas and recognise commercial opportunities across a variety of platforms.

There will be a degree of international and UK travel and attendance at trade events.

Driving licence essential.

Apply with CV, covering letter and current salary to:  
[jobs@fishfarmer.com](mailto:jobs@fishfarmer.com)

## Fish Farmer Magazine

### MEDIA SALES Edinburgh or Oban

£ GENEROUS BASIC + £ BONUS + ENHANCED PENSION

Fish Farmer magazine has been part of the aquaculture scene for over 40 years and is known and respected in Europe and across the world.

**If you are a motivated sales professional then we would like to hear from you.**

You will be selling online and print advertising in Fish Farmer as well as attending trade shows in the UK and abroad.

Key skills include excellent time and territory management, plus the ability to work well under pressure and deliver a consistent sales performance to tight deadlines.

Experience in media sales and/or an understanding of the aquaculture industry would be advantageous as would an equivalent background in B2B sales.

The position is based in our Edinburgh or Oban office.

Please email a copy of your CV, present salary and a covering letter to Brian Cameron at  
[recruitment@fishfarmermagazine.com](mailto:recruitment@fishfarmermagazine.com)



*Our mission is for The Highland Cinema to become the creative centre of Lochaber. Providing a fun, vibrant and entertaining hub for local people and visitors to the West Highlands. The aim is to offer an excellent cinema and exceptional café, in beautiful surroundings full of Highland hospitality.*

### KITCHEN MANAGER

If you are a versatile chef, have management experience in developing and running a busy kitchen and have a passion for creating menus from locally sourced produce, then we need to speak with you! This is an exciting opportunity to build a small kitchen team of like-minded people, passionate about food and providing a positive and enthusiastic customer experience.

### FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Are you a positive, friendly, person who would like to become part of our Front of House team? If so, this is a brilliant opportunity for you to join us at the launch of The Highland Cinema. We are looking for both shift leaders, bar, and waiting staff for full and part-time positions.

### KITCHEN STAFF

Do you have experience of working in a successful, busy kitchen? This is an exceptional opportunity for you to join a small team of like-minded people who are passionate about food and local produce. We are looking for shift leaders and kitchen assistants to cover full and part-time positions. Competitive pay, a share of tips, and other 'perks' such as meals and cinema tickets.

### SEASONAL STAFF

Looking for something fun, lively, and in a great area of Scotland over the summer season? We require dedicated individuals to work at the brand-new Highland Cinema in Fort William. We are looking for positive, friendly, hard-working people to make pizzas and keep our bar and restaurant running smoothly during the busy summer season. Full and part-time positions available from May. Competitive pay, a share of tips, and other 'perks' such as meals and cinema tickets. Accommodation available if required.

### FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

This is a rare opportunity to build a team from the beginning at this stunning new Fort William Bar and Café. We need you to have experience of purchasing and managing budgets and have basic computer literacy. But more than this, we are looking for a person to help put The Highland Cinema firmly on the map, with a reputation for first class service.

### VOLUNTEER USHERS

Are you a local resident with a passion for all things film? Maybe you'd like to become part of our team of volunteers at The Highland Cinema! Ushers must commit to a minimum of two shifts a week. In exchange, you will enjoy the films being shown, a delicious meal each time you volunteer, and the chance to be a part of this exciting project right from the launch! Please email us to register your interest.

More details can be found on our website [www.highlandcinema.co.uk](http://www.highlandcinema.co.uk)  
closing date for applications is **31st March 2020.**

# RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**HIJOBS**  
Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

**Post Title:** Purser/Boatmaster/Engineer

**Recruitment Reference -** HGH08814

**Location:** Fort William

**Duration:** Permanent

**Salary:** £30,149 - £33,880 p.a.

Salary placing will normally be at the first point of the scale

**Closing date for applications 23.03.2020**

**Contact Person:** Richard Porteous, Tel: 07979 706515

**Job Purpose:** We are looking to recruit a Purser/Boatmaster/Engineer for the Corran Ferry, the successful candidate will be required to carry out the safe operation of the vessel ensuring the safety of passengers, crew and protection of the environment and act as Purser/Deckhand, Engine Watcher and Relief Skipper as required by work pattern.

A valid Boat Master's Licence Grade II is preferable but consideration will be given to a suitable candidate who could work towards this qualification. A lower salary would be paid whilst training. The ideal candidate will have engineering/mechanical experience preferably from a marine background but this is not essential.

The Shift Pattern is 5 days on/5 days off. Progression options to Engineer or Skipper.

For more details see the Job and Person Specification on My Job Scotland.

Please apply on [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk) If you are unable to apply online and you wish to request an offline application pack, please contact Business Support, T: 01955 608279 (24 hour voicemail) quoting post reference number HGH08814.



## LEITHS

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following positions based at Highland Lime, Fort William: -

### CONCRETE BATCHER

You will be responsible for carrying out concrete batching operations, routine maintenance works, product quality assurance and record keeping. You will also be required to carry out general quarry duties as required.

### QUARRY OPERATIVE

You will be responsible for operating the Mill House and carrying out other general quarry duties as required.

Candidates for both positions would ideally have industry related experience and knowledge of quarrying operations, be a versatile, flexible and an accommodating working who has a clean driving licence and would be available to commence employment at the earliest opportunity.

If you wish to apply to join our team, please download an application form from our website

[www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers)

and submit to

[recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk)

Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer



Department for Work & Pensions

### Oban Jobcentre Work Coach

Salary - £26,892  
Fixed Term - 12 months  
Hours - 37 per week

#### Oban Jobcentre Plus are recruiting!

If you are interested in a role as a Work Coach at Oban Jobcentre plus, we are running a Workshop to provide advice about the recruitment process.

The Workshop will be held in Oban Jobcentre Plus on TUESDAY 17TH MARCH between 2pm and 6.30pm.

Please come along and speak to staff on the day if you are interested in working for DWP. No appointment is necessary.

The vacancies in Oban will be advertised on our website [www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk) from 16th March.

Career opportunities



### Full time/Permanent positions in Oban.

#### SITE SUPERVISOR

#### GENERAL LABOURERS

#### BRICKLAYERS

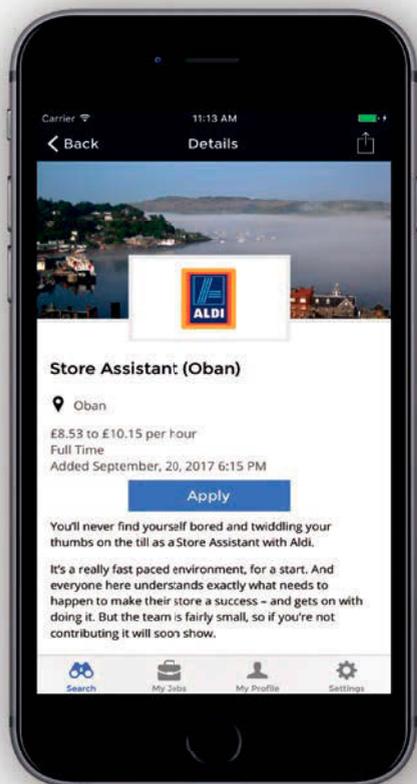
Apply by CV with references to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk) or call 01546 602989 for further information.



RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT  
**HIJOBS HIJOBS**  
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

We've made it even easier to find your next job in the perfect location.

Download our app for free at [hijobs.co.uk/app](http://hijobs.co.uk/app)



# HIJOBS



# PUBLIC NOTICES

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mary Keith has registered her croft Keills, Isle of Jura on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 19, 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home).

The croft registration number is C6733.

### First Registration of a Croft

Mr Max Bonniwell has registered their croft South Ledaig Croft, Ardconnel, Kilmore and Kilbride on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 19, 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6830.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr Alan Munro MacCorquodale has registered their croft Port Ramsay (share), Port Ramsay, Lismore & Appin (being a croft by virtue of s.3(5)(a) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993) on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19 November 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6836.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Shona McVean Sinclair Campbell has registered her croft, Loch Awe View, Stronmilchan (Grazing Share), in the Parish of Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 28 November 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6859.

### PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A GRAZING SHARE

Philip Knight is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 25 Auchinahard (share) to Harald Kremer in the Achnahard Township Grazings of Sindlinger Bahnstrasse 40, D65931 Frankfurt, Germany.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of this advert.



Source: Business Choice & The Newspaper Society

**Regional Press**  
CLOSER TO HOME

### Argyll and Bute Council

#### PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00319/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Oskamull Cottage, Ulva Ferry, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/00388/PP	Erection of holiday let cottage	Garden Ground Of Otter Bay, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4XA
20/00338/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/03260/PPP (Demolition of former creamery and erection of flatted development)	Former Creamery Site, Mossfield Drive, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4EN
20/00142/PP	Erection of replacement sunroom, conversion of shed to form ancillary accommodation and installation of a new packaged treatment plant	Creach, Killiemore, Killychranon, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA72 6JZ
20/00300/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 64, The Glebe, Kilmelford, Argyll And Bute
20/00277/PP	Demolition of extension and erection of replacement extension	45 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7DJ

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/00962/FUL	Ardgour Primary School, Ardgour	Erection of nursery
20/00980/FUL	Craigard, Invergarry	Erection of bin store, siting of storage units, alterations to maintenance building and installation of ventilation system
20/00990/FUL	Land 710M NE of Heisker Banavie, Fort William	Erection of 3 no. Holiday Letting Houses
20/00947/FUL	Land 80M NW Of Greenbank Cottage, 38 - 39 North Ballachulish, Onich	Erection of house and garage
20/00449/FUL	Land 80M NW Of the Lodge on The Loch, Onich	Erection of 8 holiday let units and erection of cafe
20/00882/FUL	Siting of 3 pods for holiday lets	Land to West of Innisfree, Glenfinnan

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

GI MacCormick  
Lag-Na-Giogan, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon  
0.126 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
104061

A Graham  
12 Tighphuirst, Lismore & Appin  
0.075 ha - Proposed new development  
104213

N Harvey  
6 Eorabus, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon  
0.16 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
104232

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 10/04/2020. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

Our privacy notice is available at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy) or on request.  
Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

### Argyll and Bute Council

#### MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 CAPITAL DREDGING BRUICHLADDICH PIER, ISLAY

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of seawall and rock armour construction at:

Cost	£25,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Dredge Area	55 ° 45.810' N	-6 ° 21.576' W
Dredge Area	55 ° 45.863' N	-6 ° 21.589' W
Dredge Area	55 ° 45.864' N	-6 ° 21.571' W
Dredge Area	55 ° 45.811' N	-6 ° 21.557' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Bridgend Post Office, Bridgend, Isle of Islay PA44 7PQ.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

Within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

Quoting reference: **07133** and **Argyll and Bute Council**.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



# Private sales free listings for items under £100

## www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

### ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

PEREGRINE FALCON, STUFFED BIRD - Life size peregrine falcon ex museum piece, good condition, can email photos. Campbeltown, £40.00 Telephone 01586 554537

SPARROWHAWKS, STUFFED - Life size pair of sparrow hawk's, Victorian ex. museum piece, male and female, displayed on stand, some damage, can email photos. Campbeltown, £20.00 Telephone 01586 554537

VINTAGE TILLEY LAMP - Old and collectable, full size lamp, brass base, unsure if working, ideal display item, can email photos, Campbeltown, £40.00 Telephone 01586 554537

TILLEY LAMP, VINTAGE - Another Tilley lamp, full size, red base, highly collectable, unsure if working, can email photos, discount if both purchased. Campbeltown, £40.00 Telephone 01586 554537

### BICYCLES

#### ELECTRIC BIKE



Affordable electric bike - upgraded 36volt battery now gives approx 20 miles range. Well used for scenic trips - free on CalMac ferries and the local train. Ideal starter electric bike at £295.00, Telephone Roger (on Seil) 07968 508430

### BOOKS

OPERATION BARBAROSSA - by Robert Kirchubel Hardback consisting 400 pages. perfect condition. £15 including postage, £15.00 Telephone 01475 726360

### BRIC-A-BRAC

ORNAMENTS - three Border collie ornaments. each, £30.00 Telephone 01397 773045

### BUILDING / DIY

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS - for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colour, £40.00 Telephone 01631 564578

### CAMPING & CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

SPRAYWAY OCTANE30 RUCKSACK - blue. Ideal for D of E. Used once, £15.00 Telephone 01546603245

### CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

NEW WHEEL - with a good tyre for a Citroen C2 or Peugeot 108, £50.00 Telephone 01499 302709

### CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

GENTS NEW BLACK SUIT - Brand new, smart 2 piece suit with tags, never worn, 40" chest, 30" leg, classic cut, ideal funerals, was £125, can email photos, Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586 554537

MOONBOOTS - Campri. Black with white logo. Size 9-10. Brand new in original packaging, £8.00 Telephone 01546 603245

MOONBOOTS - Campri. Size 11-12. Worn once. In packaging, £6.00 Telephone 01546 603245

PORSCHE BACKPACK - Black in colour. 100% polyester. 17" x 11" x 6" approx. Still in bag. Unsuitable purchase. Including postage, £39.00 Telephone 01475 726360

PORSCHE T-SHIRT - 36" chest Grey with Martini logo Perfect condition. Including postage, £10.00 Telephone 01475 726360

### DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

AEG DOUBLE OVEN - Brushed Stainless Steel, in good order, £80.00 Telephone 01631 730323  
HOTPOINT 8KG WASHING MACHINE - 1600 spin. Buyer uplifts, £50.00 ono Telephone 01586 550075

### DOMESTIC PETS

HUNGARIAN WIREHAired VIZSLA PUPPIES - KC Registered. These dogs have wonderful temperaments, very trainable, make good family pets and or gun dogs, both parents working. Ready March 17, £1,000.00 Telephone 01506 854822 or 07951 817581

### EQUESTRIAN

BLACK DRESSAGE SADDLE - Reactor panel Avant Garde 16.5 inch, wide fit black dressage saddle, fully adjustable, £1,500.00 Telephone 07834 806335

### FARMING EQUIPMENT

'1520' USED WATER STORAGE TANK - Previously used for water storage. Pipe inlets/outlets at the top & bottom of the tank with a removable plastic top lid. 2 lifting eyes in the top, £50.00 Telephone 07901 846744

### FURNITURE

#### LARGE 3 SEATER CORNER SOFA - Cord fabric

Fawn Colour  
Very good condition from smoke/pet free home  
Buyer uplifts  
Telephone 01546 606479

### FURNITURE

PARKER KNOLL STYLE CHAIR - high back with arms and side panels. Ardrishaig, £40.00 Telephone 07900 862835 or 01546 603654

### GARDEN MACHINERY

MACCULLOCH CHAINSAW - A bit stubborn to start but runs well. Tarbert, £25.00 Telephone 07507 093239

PETROL BRUSH CUTTER - Qualcast 29cc Petrol Brush Cutter (cow horn style). Little used, £29.00 Telephone 01631 565570

### GARDEN

SPEAR AND JACKSON SPADE - Good strong spade, good used condition, can email photos, Campbeltown, £10.00 Telephone 01586 554537

VINTAGE STEEL GARDEN ROLLER - Small vintage steel garden roller. Excellent painted conditions. Suit smaller garden or makes a nice feature, £90.00 Telephone 01631 564578

VINTAGE CART WHEELS - and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items, £30.00 Telephone 01631 564578

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS - in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40.00 Telephone 01631 564578

### HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

CLEARVIEW WOOD BURNING STOVE - Large, £80.00 Telephone 01631 730323

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS PEARLISED PAPER & CARD - white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975

Oban Times  
PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times  
PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times  
PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times  
PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times

### HOME FURNISHINGS

#### LARGE GILT FRAMED MIRROR



No idea of age. Collect from central Oban. Measurements approx 3ft x 21", £100.00 Text/Whats app 07717 558091

### HOME OFFICE

LOKABLE FILING CABINET - "Pierre Henry" 4 drawer, steel, grey & black, 25 new suspension folders worth £20, plus 25 used folders. Buyer uplifts, Dunollie area, £50.00 Telephone 01631 571106

### KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

SHOWER SCREEN - Volente 5 fold bath shower screen, 5mm tempered glass, suitable for corner and straight bath, new, unused, 1400 x 1250, £75.00 Telephone 01852200025

APLICO PORCELAIN DINNER SET - 14 pieces in black-gold edging., £35.00 inc P&P Telephone 01475 726360

### MARINE

17FT SPEEDBOAT - unfinished project. Open to offers. Tarbert, Telephone 07507 093239

PRIJON TOURYAK SEA KAYAK - red, complete with spray deck, travel cover and split paddles, 2 hatches, adjustable foot rest. Craobh Haven, £750.00 ONO Telephone 07709 086934

### MISCELLANEOUS

OIL TANK - Bunded, 500 gallons, in good condition, £99.99 Telephone 01631 730323

### OUTDOOR SPORTING EQUIPMENT

LADIES GOLF CLUBS - full set, together with glove and umbrella. Lady Sayers, £50.00 or very near offer Telephone 01546 886671

### PLANTS AND SHRUBS

SNOWDROPS - IN THE GREEN - 6 pots (full) - £7.50, trays approx 500 bulbs - £50, trays approx 250 bulbs - £25. Ready for collection from Old Garden Nursery, Taynuilt, Telephone 07738 199988

### PRINTING AND STATIONERY

EPSON PRINTER CARTRIDGES FOR EPSON STYLUS PHOTO R2880 R2880 Ink Cartridges  
T0966 x 2 T0964 x 1  
T0963 x 2 T0961 x 2  
T0962 x 2 T0967 x 3  
T0965 x 2 T0969 x 2  
£80 for all 16 Telephone 01631 568030

GENUINE HP C9704A IMAGING DRUM FOR LASERJET 1500 - HP C9704A Imaging Drum (121A) for LaserJet 1500. 2500 (unopened, Genuine HP), £15.00 Telephone 01631 568030

7 ASSORTED HP PRINTER CARTRIDGES FOR LASERJET 1500 / 2500 - 7 assorted HP C970x Toner cartridges (unopened, genuine HP)

HP C9700A x 2 (Black)  
HP C9701A x 1 (Cyan)  
HP C9702A x 3 (Yellow)  
HP C9703A x 1 (Magenta)  
To fit HP LaserJet 2500L 1500N 1500L 1500 2500TN 1500LXI 2500LSE 2500LN  
£40 for all 7, Telephone 01631 568030

PRINTER CARTRIDGES FOR HP LASERJET 2100/ 2200 - HP 96A (C4096A) Black Original LaserJet x 2 - (unopened, genuine HP). Fits HP LaserJet 2100 and 2200 Printer series, £20.00 Telephone 01631 568030

THANK YOU CARDS - new baby or wedding, with a photo of your new arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL - market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975

### TOYS AND GAMES

MINI HOC - indoor hockey set, £25.00 Telephone 07775 441367

6FT TABLE TOP SNOOKER/ POOL - table with balls and cues, £40.00 Telephone 07775 441367

4FT TABLE TOP TABLE FOOTBALL GAME, £50.00 Telephone 07775 441367  
5FT TABLE TOP ELECTRIC AIR HOCKEY TABLE, £50.00 Telephone 07775 441367

### TRAILERS

CAR TRAILER - 6'x3'. Good condition. (Killin), £99.00 Telephone 01567 820521

### WANTED

MILITARIA ITEMS WANTED - Local collector. Best prices paid, Telephone 07796 314296

## West Coast PROPERTY



### DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY 23 Dell Road, Campbeltown

- These commercial centrally located premises are available for sale. The seller believes that the property could be granted a change of use for residential development.
- The property lies within the Campbeltown Conservation Area.
- Alternatively the property could continue to be used for commercial purposes.
- Immediate entry is available.
- Current rateable value: £2250.
- Utilities: Mains water, sewage and electricity.



**Offers in the region of £70,000**  
All enquiries to Mactaggart Property 01586 552317  
mail@mactaggart-property.co.uk

# West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

✓ BUY LOCAL ✓ SELL LOCAL ✓ TRADE LOCAL ✓ SWAP LOCAL

## SEPTIC TANK CONTRACTING



**MBC**  
MARTIN BOYLE CONTRACTING LTD

**SEPTIC TANK SERVICES**  
EMPTYING AND CLEANING • TANK INSPECTION  
TANK INSTALLATION • DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE  
SYSTEMS • GROUNDWORKS • PLANT HIRE

Scottish Water  
Approved Contractor.

**01546 603989**  
[mbcargyll.com](http://mbcargyll.com)

CHAS SEPA

Est 2005 • Isle of Jura 'Serving Argyll and the Islands'

## HEATING SERVICES



**Tralee Heating Services**

**0% Finance**  
Call today for further details

**T: 01631 720 255 M: 07590 440 877**  
E: [traleebaygas@gmail.com](mailto:traleebaygas@gmail.com) W: [www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk](http://www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk)

safe REGISTERED OPTEC REGISTERED TECHNICIAN

## DIY & TRADE SUPPLIES

**HIGHLAND FASTENERS**

**TRADE & DIY ESSENTIALS**

Power tools  
Hand tools | PPE  
Workwear | Decorating  
Fasteners | Fixings

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll  
**01631 570584** e-mail [sales@highlandfasteners.com](mailto:sales@highlandfasteners.com)

## TIMBER KIT HOMES & CONSTRUCTION

**MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED**



- TIMBER KITS
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- AGGREGATES
- PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
- JOINERY & REFURBISHMENT
- CONSERVATORIES
- SCAFFOLDING

**www.macleodconstruction.co.uk**  
Tel: (01546) 602989 • Email: [sales@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:sales@mkmacleod.co.uk)

## MOBILITY

**TOWER MOBILITY**  
INDEPENDENT LIVING AIDS




**LIFT AND RISE RECLINERS  
ROLLATORS, SCOOTERS  
WHEEL CHAIRS**

**HANDY AIDS TO DAILY LIVING.**

**MATHESONS FURNISHINGS**  
Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ  
**01631 565195** [info@mathesons.co.uk](mailto:info@mathesons.co.uk)



## REMOVAL & STORAGE

**MacQueen Self Storage Ltd.**  
Unit 7A2, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG  
Tel: (01631) 564848 Fax: (01631) 570627

**Steel container hire and sales.  
Clean, Dry, Accessible 24 hours.  
Lorry loader hire.**

**Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG**  
**(01631) 564848**  
[info@macqueenbros.com](mailto:info@macqueenbros.com)

## HOUSE CLEARANCES

**Stuff Getting You Down?  
Overwhelmed by Clutter but  
don't know where to start?**



We offer house clearances in Fort William and surrounding area  
Domestic clear outs and disposal  
SEPA registered drivers

Call us NOW for a free estimate  
**07391 021400**

## OBAN BLINDS

**Oban-Blinds**

Vertical Blinds • Roller Blinds  
Blackout Blinds • Venetian Blinds  
**Free Measuring and Estimating Service**

Vast range of Domestic and Commercial blinds  
Telephone: Donald Cameron  
**07979 826614**  
Email: [oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk)

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**  
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.  
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.  
3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.  
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.  
5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.  
6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.  
7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.  
8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.  
9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.  
10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.  
11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.  
12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

## DIAMOND WEDDING

**BALLANTINE - McLEAN** - Jim to Kay, by Rev C M Henderson on March 18, 1960 at Kilmichael-Glassary Church.

## DEATHS

**BOUSTEAD** - Passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 5, 2020 in Mossspark Nursing Home Fort William, aged 87 years, Magdalen Boustead. Requiem Mass will take place at 12 noon on Friday, March 13 at St. Mun's R.C. Church Ballachulish thereafter to St. John's Graveyard Ballachulish. Family flowers only please, donations are welcomed for Cancer Research and Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland. All welcome.

**CRONIN** - Suddenly, after a determined battle bravely borne, with his family by his side, at Mull and Iona Community Hospital, John Lachlan, (known as Iain), on March 5, 2020, aged 85 years, of 19 Bentalla Crescent, Salen, Isle of Mull. Beloved son of the late Christopher and Euphemia, brother of Anne and the late Thomas, (Tommy), dear uncle

of Fay, Angus and Jane and grand uncle of Katrina, Anson, Kimberly-Anne, Isla Annabel and Ben.

**DEWAR** - Suddenly, but peacefully, at home in Carnoustie, on March 5, 2020, Helen Dewar (née Stewart), formerly of Tyndrum and Girvan, beloved wife of the late James Dewar, much loved mother of Robert and Susan and mother-in-law to Billy, granny to Lynsay, Jamie and Shannon and GG to Kayleigh and Cameron. Service at Dundee Crematorium on Monday, March 16, at 1.30 p.m., to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, but donations, if so desired to Macmillan Cancer Support will be received at the Crematorium.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at his home Hough House, Tiree, on March 5, 2020, in his 90th year, Donald Kennedy, beloved husband of the late Isabella MacLean née McEachern. Dear uncle, grand-uncle and cousin. Sadly missed.

**MACLEOD** - Maria (née Chisholm). Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital on March 10, 2020, Maria beloved wife of Alastair and mum to Caroline,

Mary, Alexandra and Nicola. Nana to Emma, Andrew, Katie, Freya, Max, Mara and Calum. Requiem Mass St Marys RC Church, Fort William on Saturday, March 14 at 12 noon, followed by a committal at Cardross Crematorium on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 1.15 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations to Macmillan Nurses Lochaber and Marys' Meals.

**MEES** - Suddenly but peacefully in the care of Belford Hospital, Fort William on Thursday March 5, 2020, Agnes (Nan) Mees, aged 95 years. Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday, March 18 from Clydebank Crematorium at 1.30 p.m. All welcome, family flowers only please. Donations TBC. For any enquiries please contact John McLellan Funeral Directors on 01397 702128.

**MOODY** - Terence William (Terry), formerly of Kilmelford, passed away peacefully at Drumdarroch Care Home in Aberdeenshire on March 5, 2020, surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Jennifer, devoted father of Andrew and Nichola, father-in-law of Kara. Brother of Val and

uncle to Christine, Wendy, Jennifer, Ian and Christopher. A family funeral will be held in Aberdeenshire.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMERON** - The family of the late Catherine Brown Cameron (née MacGeachy) would like to thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of sympathy received following the recent sad loss of their mum. Heartfelt thanks to all staff of Glenaray Ward for their compassionate care and the staff of Ward 6C at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow who were exceptional. Sincere thanks to Rev Hilda Smith for her personal and uplifting service and Rev William Crossan for his service at Kilkerran, and also Ryan McGlynn for his musical accompaniment. Thanks also to Richard and staff at Kilmartin Hotel and to the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown for excellent catering; to Keli MacDougall for the beautiful floral tribute, and to Roddy and Fiona of Donald MacDonald, Funeral Directors, for their professional and caring service. Finally, thank you to all who paid their last respects to Catherine at the church and graveside, especially those who travelled a great distance in difficult weather conditions. All very much appreciated by Shona, Sheena and their families. The collection for Marie Curie Mid Argyll raised £300.

**MACKAY** - Mary, Aulay and all the family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received on the sad loss of Margaret. Special thanks to Ward I Staff for their exceptional care of mum. Thanks to Father James for a lovely service and also the beautiful voice of Mary-Catherine. A special mention of Catriona at Hamish Hoey's, who was an amazing support throughout all the funeral arrangements. Thanks to Petals for the stunning floral

arrangements. Also many thanks to the Royal Hotel for the excellent catering. Finally, thanks to all those who paid their respects at the church and graveside and who contributed generously in memory of Margaret, to Alzheimer Scotland (Oban Resource Centre). Thank you all for the sum of £500.

## MEMORIALS

**FILES** - Treasured memories of Anne, who died March 13, 2019, a beloved mum, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt. Loved and missed every day.

- The family xx

**FILES** - Anne, died March 13, 2019, a dear friend. Time may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay.

We love and miss you.

- Marie, Emma and Maisie. x

**LAFFERTY** - In loving memory of our dad John Joseph, who passed away March 15, 1989.

Always in our thoughts.

- Denise and Kerry.

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of Margaret, who passed away on March 12, 2019, beloved wife, mother and gran. Always loved and remembered.

- Alasdair, Gordon and family.

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of Sandra, died March 17, 2013.

Always in our thoughts.

- Donald and family.

**NICHOLSON** - In loving

memory of Jessie, wife of the late Malcolm, who died March 11, 2000.

Loved and remembered every day.

- The Nicholson families.

**OMAND** - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious Nana Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008.

Always in our thoughts.

- Rosemary, Ina, John and families Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

## CHARITY DONATIONS

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

Fundraising Office  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ

Tel 0300 100 0200  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

cr.uk.org  
Together we will beat cancer

CANCER RESEARCH UK

**£38m**  
of life-saving research

Thanks to you, we funded £38m of life-saving research in Scotland last year. Help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured. Donate today.

Cancer Research UK PO Box 1561, Oxford, OX4 9GZ  
Oban Local Committee Treasurer, c/o Glenside, Polvinister Road, Oban PA34 5TN, or  
Cancer Research UK Oban Shop

## MEMORIALS

**McLELLAN MEMORIALS**



A headstone is a lasting monument and tribute to a cherished family member or friend. We offer a full range of elegant, distinctive and high quality memorials in traditional or contemporary designs.

Brochures for Memorial stones are available in our Dudley Road office, where our staff can assist you with choosing the stone and helping with the inscription. We will help guide you through these decisions, including the choice of granite, marble or limestone.

EST 1923

DUDLEY ROAD, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6JB  
TEL: 01397 702128 WWW.MCLELLANFUNERALS.CO.UK

QUALITY CARE SINCE 1923

**Stokes Memorials**  
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years  
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor

- New and traditional memorials.
- Additional lettering.
- Cleaning and renovations.
- Pet memorials.
- Work carried out in any cemetery.
- Free estimates and advice.
- House signs.

312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01369 702162 • Email: fraserdownie.43@gmail.com

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

SCOTLAND SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**MANSON & MACBEATH**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Tel: 01397 701110 - 24 Hour Service  
Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6NB

- Professional, Caring & Dignified.
- Locally Owned & Operated.
- Golden Charter Funeral Plans.
- Headstone & Memorial Services.

www.mansonandmacbeath.co.uk

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

In recent days, two situations have occurred. A friend came to see me about someone who was in despair, life feeling overwhelming, and my friend did not know what to say or do to help.

Then news came of a member of my family who has gone missing and there is fear for his life. A deep sense of helplessness overwhelmed me as I heard the news.

Last week I was in Oban for our Diocesan Synod, a great opportunity to meet up with people from all over Argyll and the Isles, people usually only met once a year.

Part of the gathering was a day conference led by Reverend Dr Sam Wells. He spoke about four kinds of relationship - 'working for, working with, being for and being with'.

The first three convey a sense of trying to fix things, and I guess most of us want to do that, and a good thing it is too! But sometimes there is no quick fix and well-meaning people avoid the sufferer because 'I didn't know what to say'. Simply being with someone should never be underestimated.

And, of course, in happier times, any relationship is the richer for the feeling of equality which comes from being with one another, sharing the inevitable highs and lows of this precious life.

**Reverend Joyce Watson,  
Scottish Episcopal Church,  
Isle of Iona.**

# Ten years of The Leanne Fund noted at Scottish Parliament

Ten years of The Leanne Fund was marked in the Scottish Parliament last week with a motion put forward by Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan.

Dr Allan congratulated the charity for the significant achievements in providing support to those with cystic fibrosis and their families across the Highlands and Islands and Grampian regions.

He said: 'The Leanne Fund is an incredible charity which we are lucky to have. It's even more inspirational when you consider how the charity began, and the work Chrisetta and the other volunteers had to put in to establish the



charity and to support people with cystic fibrosis and their families.

'I was delighted to put down a motion in the Scottish Parliament marking their

tenth anniversary. I hope the next 10 years are at least as successful.'

Chrisetta Mitchell, development manager of The Leanne Fund, said: 'The Leanne Fund has progressed so much over the past 10 years which has allowed us to expand to other areas and increase the level of support services we provide.'

'We are very pleased that the work of our charity has been noted in the Scottish Parliament and we thank our MSP Alasdair Allan for putting this forward.'

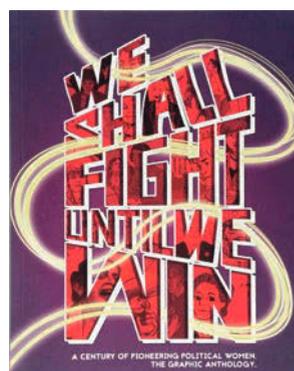
The motion stated: 'That the Parliament congratulate The Leanne Fund on its 10th anniversary, considers that is it the foremost cystic fibrosis charity

organisation in the Highlands and Islands and Grampian regions, praises its achievements in providing psychological, emotional, social, physical and financial support to those with the condition and their families; recognises the legacy of Leanne Mitchell, who passed away from the condition aged 21, of helping others and giving individuals the opportunity to live their lives to the fullest extent and with a joyful heart; commends the Mitchell family and the entire Leanne Fund organisation for their continued tireless support of individuals living with cystic fibrosis and their families, and wishes them continued success in the years to come.'

## Gift to libraries celebrates women's roles in politics

Scottish publishers 404ink and BHP Comics have teamed up with the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) to donate copies of the graphic novel, We Shall Fight Until We Win, to every secondary school library in the country, including Argyll, the Isles and the Highlands, to mark International Women's Day last Sunday, March 8.

The initiative fits in with



SLIC's National Strategy for School Libraries which aims to showcase the impact an excellent library service can have in Scotland's schools.

The comic-style novel reflects on the role that women have played in shaping the current political climate over the past century and features illustrated snapshots of women from each decade of the past 100 years, alongside stories that highlight

details of their efforts and achievements.

CEO at SLIC, Pamela Tulloch, said: 'Even in the age of the internet, books remain a key learning resource in schools and the vibrancy of We Shall Fight Until We Win will certainly make it stand out on library shelves.'

'The comic style and colourful design really brings the stories to life and gives them a fresh feel which helps make the historical content relevant to young people's lives today.'

'I'm sure the books will be enjoyed by girls and boys alike in Scottish schools for many years to come and I'd like to thank 404ink and BHP

Comics for their generosity.'

The collaboration between the two publishers not only draws attention to women who deserve recognition, from Emmeline Pankhurst to Mhairi Black, it also brings together a range of contributors from a variety of disciplines.

The donation has been praised by the Scottish Government with Equalities Minister Christina McKelvie, who said: 'This will help inform and inspire our young people and future generations, as well as helping us to continue to challenge gender stereotypes, including in early years and education settings.'

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Oban's Longest Established Independent Funeral Directors

Professional, Respectful and Experienced Staff

Private Chapel of Rest

8-Seat Mercedes Limousine Hire

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

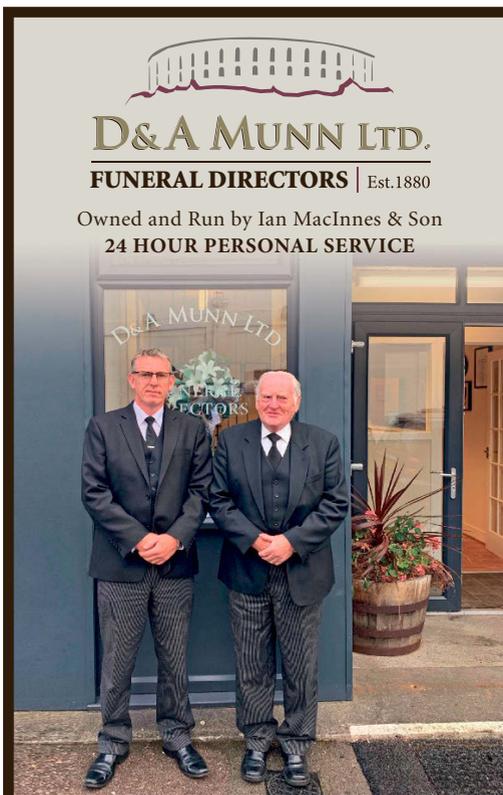


Simple Burial or Cremation Service

FROM £1695.00

D & A MUNN Ltd

Breadalbane Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 5NZ  
Tel: 01631 562562 Email: ian@munns-oban.co.uk



## The Gaelic Books Council launches literature awards

Publishers and writers are being invited to submit Scottish Gaelic books for consideration, including manuscripts for children's or adult books as yet unpublished.

Following 10 years of the Donald Meek Award, established in 2010 with financial assistance from Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig to encourage and support new and established Gaelic writers and original Gaelic writing, the categories reflect the evolution of Gaelic publishing in that period, and aim to reward excellence across a range of genres.

The Donald Meek Award will now be presented to the best non-fiction title published in the past year. Among the other prizes on offer will be an award in memory of Derick Thomson, first chairman of the Gaelic Books Council, for the best poetry publication. There will also be an opportunity for the author of the best unpublished original children's manuscript to secure a publishing contract with Acair Books.

Entries must be received by 5pm on Friday May 1. Visit [www.gaelicbooks.org](http://www.gaelicbooks.org)

# Sponsorship boost as new shinty season gets going

## Mowi Scotland signs new three-year contract

The new shinty season is under way, with half the schedule beating the elements on Saturday March 7.

Just 48 hours before the games began, Mowi Scotland confirmed its renewal as title sponsor of the Camanachd Association.

The new three-year contract marks 34 years since the world leading aquaculture and seafood company, and the largest producer of salmon, began sponsoring the sport.

Speaking about the sponsorship contract, Ewan MacColl from Mowi, said: 'We are delighted to continue our relationship with the Camanachd Association. Shinty is so important to communities throughout the Highlands where we have a presence. It promotes the health and well-being of so many young people and brings communities together, especially on match days. We are proud to support shinty and the work of the Camanachd Association.'

The sponsorship deal means Mowi continues as title sponsor of the senior leagues; youth leagues; national shinty awards; shinty/hurling internationals; senior and U21 Scotland national squads and the Mowi youth development fund.

Derek Keir, chief executive officer of the Camanachd Association, spoke about the importance of the continued relationship with Mowi: 'Over the past five years, participation in shinty has increased significantly. The support from Mowi pro-



**Lovat Ladies and Scotland Star Laura Gallacher, Millbank Primary Pupil Tobias Keir and former Scotland men's captain and Kinlochshiel player Finlay MacRae model the 2020 Scotland kit.**

vides vital pathways in participation and in performance for our members across Scotland to compete at a level appropriate to their interests and capability. The opportunities to compete as part of a team, to stay active and play an active role in your community are elements of modern society that promote togetherness. In the modern era and in rural parts of Scotland this outlet and opportunity to connect and reduce isolation is something we value greatly and we thank Mowi for their support to allow us to do this with our clubs and members.'

Camanachd Association president Keith Loades added: 'We are delighted to renew our sponsorship with Mowi Scotland and thank them for their important role in our work to help our communities sustain Scotland's most historic sport. The Camanachd Association is lucky

to have fantastic sponsors such as Mowi which recognises the huge benefits shinty brings to communities across Scotland. A new season is upon us and we walk into it with pride, having signed this three-year deal with Mowi Scotland.'

As part of the Camanachd Association's work to raise awareness of mental health and well-being, all throw-ups took place a minute later than usual as a cue for conversation about a subject that has been taboo for too long. All shinty members were encouraged to use this time to check in with one another and ensure the shinty community continues to support each other in the best way possible, by listening.

## Mowi Premiership

**Glasgow Mid Argyll v Oban Camanachd P**

Oban Camanachd face a delayed start to the season after their

match against newly-promoted Glasgow Mid Argyll was postponed following an 8.45am inspection on Saturday morning which ruled Yoker unplayable.

Oban Camanachd now look to this Saturday's meeting with Fort William at Mossfield with the Fort side also idle last weekend.

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'It was disappointing not to start our season against Mid Argyll but it was probably the right decision rather than travel down the road, start the game then have it abandoned.

'We'll now focus on Fort William at Mossfield this weekend, weather permitting of course, as the shinty pitches are saturated. Fort William will be on a high after their great year last season but it's a big jump to premiership shinty and we'll be well prepared.'

## Lovat 6 Kilmallie 0

Kilmallie's clash with Lovat was reversed to Balgait on Friday afternoon as Canal Parks was unplayable.

New Lovat co-managers Alan MacRae and Jamie Matheson fielded a strong side. Marc MacLachlan has left the club, but Scott MacKenzie returned to play in defence, Drew Howie was in midfield and Greg Matheson was joined in attack by Fraser Heath, Lewis Tawse and Lorne MacKay. Craig Mainland was missing but Martin Mainland, Bailey MacKay and Cameron MacMillan made up the bench.

This was a first match in charge for new Kilmallie boss Martin Stewart, although he had a prior commitment which meant he missed this one. Kilmallie were without key attackers Liam MacDonald and Daniel Stewart through injury and

Michael Rodger was suspended. There were starts for Aiden Love, Iain MacIntyre and Frankie Innes with Aaron Sandison, Ben MacKinnon and Jordan Campbell held in reserve.

Lovat were up for the game and went at it from the start. With just 20 seconds gone, Fraser Heath ran onto a ball played out to the touchline on the right with Robbie MacFadyen in chase. Heath touched the ball round his opponent and ran towards goal. With keeper Shane Gillies guarding his near post, Heath played in Tawse and his effort was deflected for a corner off a Kilmallie foot. Tawse sent the corner to Lorne MacKay who played in Greg Matheson who had found space. Matheson gave the keeper no chance as he hammered the ball low into the net.

And it was Greg Matheson again from the restart as he lost his marker before powering the ball home from the right to make it 2-0 with just two minutes gone.

On 16 minutes, Fraser Heath chased a ball on the right, stopping it going out for a goal-hit. Heath looked up and found Tawse who pushed the ball home.

With five first half minutes remaining, the ball broke to Greg Matheson on the right. He had time to stop the ball, tee up his shot and pick his spot high in the net with another fierce effort which completed his hat-trick.

With Lovat leading 4-0 at the break they introduced Martin Mainland for Graham MacMillan for the second half, with Bailey MacKay replacing Fraser Heath later in the game.

The second half lacked quality but Lovat added two more goals late in the game. A Greg Matheson shot was saved by Shane Gillies but the ball rebounded to Matheson at the edge of the box and he notched his fourth goal of the afternoon.

A minute later, Tawse got his second goal with a shot from the right to make it 6-0.

As well as goal scorers Matheson and Tawse, Scott MacKenzie played well for Lovat.

## Kingussie 7 Caberfeidh 1

Champions Kingussie started their bid to retain the title in style as they beat Caberfeidh 7-1 at the Dell.

Savio Genini gave Kingussie the lead on three minutes. James Falconer slipped the ball down the line to Genini on the edge of the 'D' and he turned on his forehand before striking the ball through the keeper's legs from a tight angle on the right.

Caberfeidh levelled a couple of minutes later with 2019 top scorer Craig Morrison opening his account as he turned home a ball from the left.



**Rory Kennedy, Newtonmore, and Oliver Macrae, Kinlochshiel, battle for the ball during the Mowi Premiership clash on Saturday.** Photograph: Neil Paterson.

## Results

### Saturday March 7 Mowi Premiership

Fort William v Kyles Athletic P. Unplayable field.  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Oban Camanachd P. Unplayable field.  
Kilmallie v Lovat P. Unplayable field. Reversed to Klitarlity  
Lovat 6 v Kilmallie 0  
Kingussie 7 v Caberfeidh 1.  
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore P. Unplayable field.  
Reversed to Newtonmore.  
Newtonmore 1 v Kinlochshiel 0  
**Mowi National Division**  
Aberdour 0 v Beaully 4  
Inveraray v Glenurquhart P. Unplayable field. Reversed to Drumnadrochit. Glenurquhart 1 v Inveraray 0  
Oban Celtic v Skye P. Unplayable field  
Strathglass 5 v Lochaber 4  
**Mowi North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh 0 v Kingussie, 9

Glenurquhart 3 v Inverness 0  
Lovat v Lochcarron P Bereavement.  
Newtonmore 12 v Kinlochshiel 0  
Skye v Fort William P. Unplayable field  
**Mowi South Division 1**  
Col Glen v Bute P. Unplayable field.  
Kyles Athletic v Tayforth P. Unplayable field.  
Lochside Rovers v Glasgow Mid Argyll P. Unplayable field.  
**Mowi North Division 2**  
Beaully 5 v Inverness 3  
Boleskine 4 v Lewis 2.  
Lochaber 4 v Strathglass 0  
Strathspey v Aberdeen University P. Unplayable field  
**Mowi South Division 2**  
Ardnamurchan v Oban Celtic P. Unplayable field.  
Bute v Aberdour P. Unplayable field. Kilmory v Inveraray P. Unplayable field.



Lachy Smith of Glenurquhart and Lewis Montgomery of Inveraray in action on the first day of the new shinty season.

James Falconer put Kingussie back in front on 12 minutes. Ruaridh Anderson's ball from deep saw Kingussie break forward. Ryan MacWilliam ran with the ball at the Caberfeidh defence before chipping it to Falconer to his left who took the ball down before tucking it low past the keeper.

Kingussie added a third on 28 minutes when Ruaridh Anderson gathered possession in a deep position and played it to Roddy Young who held the ball up, waiting for a run from Fraser Munro before playing it wide to Savio Genini and his immediate ball inside picked out Munro's run. The midfielder took the ball in his stride, before hitting a great shot from the left, high across the keeper into the side netting inside the far post.

The home side took a 4-1 lead into the break when Ruaridh Anderson netted on the stroke of half-time. Savio Genini at full forward came deep to get the ball in a central position. Genini tried to find Ruaridh Anderson who was running in from the right. Caberfeidh full back Ryan Simmonds read the pass and got to the ball first. However, Anderson quickly closed him down and his attempted clearance deflected off the Kingussie play-maker's stick and crept past keeper Iain McCall at his right post. James Falconer got his second five minutes into the second half, flicking the ball home from a tight angle inside the left of the 'D'.

It was Genini again on 65 minutes to make it 6-1. The goal came from a corner on the right which was missed by two defenders with Genini scoring on his forehand at the back post, steering the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Ruaridh Anderson got his second with a tidy finish to round off the scoring a minute from time. Thomas Borthwick played the ball out to the left where Genini ran to collect. Genini squared the ball early to Anderson who was running in. He went to strike with his forehand but cut it back, losing his marker, and took another touch by a defender inside the left of the 'D' before shooting low past the keeper into the far corner of the net.

### Newtonmore 1 Kinlochshiel 0

It became clear midweek the constant rain on the west coast would leave Kinlochshiel's new Ràraig Park unplayable so their match against Newtonmore was switched to the Eilan.

As expected, Owen Fraser started in goal for Newtonmore, taking over from Kenny Ross, and he played well. Newtonmore were without Glen MacKintosh, Evan Menzies and Fraser MacKintosh.

Kinlochshiel added to their squad during the close season with Rhuairaidh MacDonald joining and Oliver MacRae re-signing after a spell with Glasgow Mid Argyll.

It was a bitterly cold day and the only goal of the game came on 20 minutes.

Steven Macdonald's long ball was taken down expertly by Jamie Robinson who turned Finlay MacRae and got a shot on target which was well saved by Josh Grant. Iain Robinson was quickly onto the rebound though and rounded the keeper before knocking the ball into the net.

Newtonmore have gained the reputation as slow starters in the league so new boss Orsten Gardner will be delighted to have made a winning start.

**Fort William v Kyles Athletic P**  
Newly-promoted Fort William were to welcome seasoned campaigners Kyles Athletic to An Aird for a 1.31pm throw-up which would also have decided the Drew Ferguson Memorial Cup.

However, the match was called off on Saturday morning with surface water on parts of the pitch.

### Mowi National Division

**Oban Celtic v Skye Camanachd P**

With Skye due to leave Portree at 8am, a 7am pitch inspection ruled Mossfield unplayable so the match between Oban Celtic and the islanders was postponed.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: "The amount of rain we've had over recent weeks means

Continued on page 52.

# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!  
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT  
£2550

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

#### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

#### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No.....

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

#### RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell Sept '18 £2500
- S Campbell Sept '18 £2550
- L Currie Nov '18 £800
- L Nicolson Dec '18 £3900
- D MacLellan Jan '20 £2000

#### LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- C MacDonald Oban
- A MacVicar Lochgilphead

OT

Continued from page 51. the pitches are not getting a chance to dry out. There's not a lot we can do about it though.'

#### Strathglass 5 Lochaber 4

Strathglass came from two goals down to edge out Lochaber 5-4 at Cannich.

Lochaber made the better start and took the lead on five minutes with a good strike from Stuart Callison from around the penalty spot, sending the ball into the roof of the net.

The visitors continued to dominate the early exchanges before Strathglass started to create chances. However, the Spean Bridge men doubled their lead on 25 minutes when, following a good phase of play, a cross from the wing was slotted home by Max Campbell from just outside the box.

Strathglass battled back though and Josh Fraser sparked the comeback when he slotted home a routine ball into the danger area from inside the box.

Strathglass finished the half on top with Josh Fraser grabbing a carbon copy of his opener a minute before the interval to tie the game at 2-2.

Lochaber made a powerful start to the second half but Strathglass weathered the storm and got going again and, after 54 minutes, Penri Jones latched onto a long hit and dispatched the ball into the net from the edge of the 'D'.

It got better for the hosts four minutes later when Lewis Douglas made it 4-2. The goal came from a free-hit at wing centre which was played high to the back of the box where Douglas fired a clean strike into the net.

Lochaber came back into the mix and there were chances at both ends before Stuart Callison punished a mistake when the home side failed to clear their lines and Callison scored from a tight angle inside the 'D'. It was now 4-3 with 76 minutes on the clock.

Strathglass restored their two-goal cushion on 82 minutes with the goal of the game. A ball was played down the wing then crossed high to the edge of the box. Ciaran Melens took it in the air and his volley flew into the roof of the net to make it 5-3.

Lochaber pressed during the final five minutes and Stuart Callison completed his hat-trick a minute from time, again from a tight angle close-in. Strathglass, with Donald Fraser a stand-out at full back, saw out the closing stages to take both points.

#### Glenurquhart 1 Inveraray 0

Inveraray's match with Glenurquhart was moved to

Blairbeg on Thursday when the Winterton was deemed unplayable.

Inveraray travelled for this 3.01pm throw-up without Fraser Watt, who had his appendix out midweek, whilst John Kennedy missed out following a hand injury suffered at work.

Inveraray made a good start, enjoying much of the play for the first 20 minutes but, with heavy underfoot conditions restricting their silky style of shinty, Glenurquhart slowly worked their way into the game.

There were few efforts on goal in the first half with both full backs - Glenurquhart's John Barr and Ross Montgomery for Inveraray - having good performances.

With Glenurquhart applying more and more pressure, the match became more physical and Inveraray bosses Ruairaidh Graham and Joe Fyfe took Lewis Montgomery from the centre and pushed him back into his usual role in the forward line. Craig Taylor came off and Ali McDonald joined the midfield in a bid to match Glenurquhart's physicality.

Both teams continued to work hard and the closest to a goal was a Glenurquhart effort which came back off the woodwork.

As the second half got under way, there was little between the teams as both struggled with the conditions.

Both teams made further substitutions to keep fresh legs on the park.

The game's decisive moment came on 56 minutes when referee Alex MacVicar awarded Glenurquhart a penalty and James MacPherson stepped up to score from the spot.

There were efforts on target at both ends during the remainder of the second half but both keepers - Stuart MacKintosh for the Glen and Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan - were in fine form so there was no further scoring.

Glenurquhart will be delighted to take all the points as they bid to make a swift return to shinty's top flight. Inveraray will feel frustrated they didn't manage to capitalise on periods of sustained pressure but will have to put that behind them as they head north again this weekend to face Skye Camanachd in what could be an important fixture in the promotion race.

#### Aberdour 0 Beaully 4

It was a big day for Aberdour who played their first match at National Division level against Beaully at Silversands.

Aberdour are missing Cammy McCue this season following his switch to Glasgow Mid Argyll, whilst Beaully fielded Ryan MacKay and Robbie Brindle who both made goal scoring returns to



Lochaber Camanachd Club's second team have returned to Mowi North Division 2 this season - complete with new kit kindly donated by Highland Wood Energy. Bruno Berardelli, left, of the company, hands over one of the new strips to team captain Neil MacDonald. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

the side. Aberdour knocked Beaully out of last season's Balliemore Cup at the same venue in the first round but there was to be no repeat as Sean Stewart on 12 minutes and Ryan MacKay on 19 minutes gave Beaully a 2-0 interval lead.

Beaully, with a strong wind in their favour, could have been further ahead had it not been for Jack MacDonald's effort off the post and great goalkeeping from Aberdour's Craig Callaghan.

Aberdour had the elements after the re-start which made for a more even contest.

The hosts struggled to create clear chances though, whilst Beaully made the most of their opportunities and Robbie Brindle on 70 minutes and youngster Euan MacCormick on 83 minutes completed the win.

#### Mowi North Division 1

The Newtonmore second team began their bid for another league championship with a thumping 12-0 victory over their Kinlochshiel counterparts.

The Kingussie colts were too strong for the Caberfeidh colts, winning 9-0 at Castle Leod.

The encounter between the Skye Camanachd second team and the Fort William second team was postponed on Friday afternoon after persistent rain left Paic nan Laoch unplayable.

The game between the Lovat reserves and newly-promoted Lochcarron at Balgate was postponed following the death of Lochcarron man Peter Munro.

Peter's father Bob Munro has been part of Lochcarron's training and coaching team for almost 25 years and the

game was called off as a mark of respect.

Glengarry were without a fixture in this 11-team league but welcome Skye to Craigard this Saturday.

#### Mowi South Division 1

With water lying on the field at Ganavan, there was frustration for Lochside Rovers and the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team as their match was another weather casualty.

Lochside are away to Ballachulish this weekend.

Col Glen and Bute were left sidelined as a waterlogged field at Glendaruel led to the cancellation of their opening match.

The Kyles Athletic reserves meeting with Tayforth was called off on Wednesday as the pitch at Tighnabruaich was unplayable and it wasn't possible to reverse the fixture.

#### Mowi North Division 2

The newly-reformed Lochaber second team made a winning return to league action with a 4-0 victory over the Strathglass second team at Spean Bridge.

Natalie MacDonald played at wing centre for Lochaber, whilst Anna Berardelli made an appearance from the bench. Lochaber's Neil MacDonald and George Phimister from Strathglass lined up against each other in the middle of the park.

David Langan scored the only goal of the first half, beating keeper Ally MacAdams to give Lochaber a 1-0 lead after the first 45 minutes.

Shaun Kane and Rolands Friemanis added to Lochaber's tally before David Langan scored his second goal of the game to confirm a

morale-boosting win.

Elsewhere in the division, the Beaully colts came from behind to beat the Inverness colts 5-3 at Braeview Park.

Boleskine got their season off to a winning start as they beat Lewis Camanachd 4-2 in their 1.01pm throw-up at Smith Park.

Strathspey Camanachd and Aberdeen University were left idle as an unplayable pitch ruled out their match at Grantown Grammar School.

The Kilmallie second team were without a fixture in this nine team division.

#### Mowi South Division 2

Ardnamurchan's meeting with the Oban Celtic second team was called off on Saturday morning because of an unplayable field.

The Oban side will try again this Saturday at home to their Bute counterparts.

Elsewhere in the division, the games between Kilmory and the Inveraray second team and the Bute reserves and the Aberdour reserves were also postponed.

Glenorchy did not have a scheduled fixture in this seven team league.

#### WCA round-up

Mowi National Division clubs were invited to take part in a new round-robin 10-a-side tournament for the WCA National League Shield at the Aviemore astro on Sunday March 8 which was International Women's Day.

Aberdour, Badenoch, Lovat and Glenurquhart travelled. Badenoch were unbeaten throughout the competition, without conceding a goal, to take the shield. Aberdour were runners-up, finishing ahead of Glenurquhart on goal difference.

#### Fixtures: Saturday March 14

**Mowi Premiership**  
Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel  
Iain Kennedy. Throw-up 1pm.  
Kyles Athletic v Kilmallie

Alex MacVicar.  
Lovat v Kingussie  
Archie Ritchie.  
Newtonmore v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
David Mitchell.  
Oban Camanachd v Fort William  
Robert Baxter.

#### Mowi National Division

Beaully v Strathglass  
Deek Cameron.  
Glenurquhart v Aberdour  
Andy MacLean.  
Lochaber v Oban Celtic  
Graham Cameron.  
Skye v Inveraray  
Calum Girvan. Throw up 3pm.

#### Mowi North Division 1

Fort William v Glenurquhart  
Graham Fisher.  
Glengarry v Skye  
Ronnie Campbell  
Kingussie v Lovat  
Steven MacLachlan  
Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh  
TBA  
Lochcarron v Newtonmore.  
John Matheson  
Free team: Inverness

#### Mowi South Division 1

Ballachulish v Lochside Rovers  
Ewan Neilson  
Bute v Taynuilt  
Ross Brown.  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kyles Athletic  
Des McNulty  
Tayforth v Col Glen Neil MacDonald

#### Mowi North Division 2

Inverness v Boleskine  
TBA  
Kilmallie v Lochaber  
TBA  
Strathglass v Beaully TBA  
Strathspey v Lewis  
TBA. Throw up 1.30pm  
Free team: Aberdeen University

#### Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour v Kilmory  
Euan Pearson  
Glenorchy v Inveraray  
Jim Innes  
Oban Celtic v Bute  
TBA  
Free team: Ardnamurchan  
**All throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.**

# Under-14s set out their stall at Oban Lorne RFC

Oban High School under-14s are taking a lead role in this weekend's Super Saturday events at Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club (OLRFC).

As part of their 2021 France Tour fundraising effort, players from the Bulls and Sharks will be selling hot drinks, pies and homebaking at the Glencruitten venue during the 1st XV's West Division Two clash with Helensburgh and afterwards, while Scotland take on Wales in their final Six Nations clash.

The youngsters are inviting all past players to go along and enjoy the day which is being supported by Scottish Rugby, which has contributed to the raffle as part of their #everyonesgame initiative.

In March 2021, 33 players from Oban High School under-14s will travel to Toulouse where they will play a junior team from Oban Lorne RFC's new sister club USC Terrasson. They will also benefit from professional coaching at Toulouse and hopefully take in a Pro14 match.



**'This is the first time we have been able to run a trip like this.'**

Murray Hamilton, principal teacher of physical education at the high school and OLRFC secretary, said: 'The players are really excited and

need to make a good start to their fundraising for tour kit, lunches and activities in the down time. This is the first time we have been able to run a trip like this and it is a great opportunity for the young players to experience rugby abroad. Everyone is looking forward to great day on Saturday where members of the community and players

**Charlie Johnston, Andrew Johnston, Oban High School coach and father of Charlie and Jack, and Jack Johnston at the 2020 SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship launch at Scottish Power HQ in Glasgow.** Photograph: © Craig Watson

past and present can come together to cheer on their local and international teams.'

The Oban 1st XV game at Helensburgh will kick off at 12.30pm to allow all present to watch Scotland's final 2020 Six Nations fixture against Ireland on the big screen in the clubhouse.

Oban Lorne Ladies are due to travel to Kirkcaldy on Sunday (2pm) in a National Plate fixture. Last weekend's home match against Kelso was postponed for the second time of asking due to a water-logged pitch.

Six Nations matches between Italy and England and France and Ireland have both been postponed due to Coronavirus concerns.

## School teams have energy for Warriors Championship

Oban High School is gearing up for the 2020 SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship on Wednesday March 18.

Forty five pupils will take part in the sixth week of qualifying in this year's schools rugby tournament at Scotstoun, the home of Glasgow Warriors.

Oban are up against St Paul's High School, Coatbridge High School, Douglas Ewart High School and Balfron High School with the aim to make the tournament's showpiece final on Friday May 15 at Scotstoun before the Guinness PRO14 match between Glasgow Warriors and Ospreys.

Each school is taking part in qualifying rounds at Scotstoun with S1 and S2 boys' teams competing alongside an under-15s girls' team.

Oban High School competed in last year's event and relished the opportunity to be involved again.

Oban coach Andrew Johnston, whose children Charlie and Jack are taking

part this year, said: 'It's an amazing opportunity for all our players to be involved in a high profile competition. The youngsters had a fantastic time last year.'

Charlie, a member of Oban High School's girls team, added: 'I scored quite a few tries last year and loved the event. Hopefully I can do the same again in 2020.'

This is the third year Glasgow Warriors' official Community Partner, SP Energy Networks, has supported the championship that aims to raise awareness and improve access to grass-roots level rugby while promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

A new record of 405 girls are taking part this year. Supporting women and girls on the pitch is mirrored in SP Energy Networks' support of women in the workplace through activities like apprenticeships, women returners' programmes and their #NotJustForBoys campaign in partnership with the Scotland Women Rugby team.ww

## Martial arts

IAIN RODGER  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Kyokushinkai Karate

The IKKU Scottish Open Knockdown Karate Championships, which takes place in the ARC Fitness centre, Glasgow, was once again a great success with competitors from six different countries taking part.

The event, organised and run by Oban coach Iain Rodger, has veteran, novice and open categories and this year had a single cadet match (16 to 17 years) between Mark Wilson from Melton Mowbray in England and Charlie McLaughlin from Oban.

The boys had a tough battle, with Mark eventually coming out on top. The match was a great experience for Charlie in his first outing as a cadet.

Also fighting from the Oban club were Charlie's dad Darryl McLaughlin and the French Viking Sébastien Jubeau. Both had a fantastic experience. This tournament gives great value for money with six hours of non-stop action.

Full results: Cadets: 1 Mark Wilson, England; 2 Charlie McLaughlin, Scotland.

Veteran Lightweight: 1 Klay Howells, Wales; 2 Pavel Khokhlachev, England; 3 Adrian Bundoiu, England.

Veteran Heavyweight: 1 Anthony Moore, England; 2 Matt Bunn, England; 3 Stuart Bruce, England.

Mens Novice Lightweight: 1 Callum Pearce, England; 2 Derek Patterson, Scotland; 3 Kaan Yildirim, England.

Mens Novice Middleweight: 1 Arin Yildirim, England; 2 Marc McMahon, Scotland; 3 Luke McMahon, Scotland.

Mens Novice Heavyweight: 1 Rafal Hajduk, Ireland; 2 Max Calvert, England; 3 Chris MacAlister, England.

Ladies Open Lightweight: 1 Jessica Charsley, England; 2 Sathmi Fernando, Scotland; 3 Andry Correa, England.

Ladies Open Heavyweight: 1 Allannah Arthur, Ireland; 2 Weronika Olesiejuk, Poland; 3 Tracey Armstrong, England.

Mens Open Middleweight: 1 Conran Pearce, England; 2 Sami Mehio, England; 3 Dylan Baldwin, Wales.

For details about Kyokushinkai Karate classes contact Iain on 07584 166542 or email using iain@ikku.co.uk

The club can also be found and messaged on Facebook under Caledonia Kyokushin.

### BJJ/MMA

If you would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email coogiepots@gmail.com

### Shukokai Karate

Clubs are located in Oban, Dalmally and Inveraray. Anyone looking for more information on these clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or by emailing: kenni.gray@btinternet.com

### Kickboxing

Sessions are on Sundays at 11am -1pm for juniors (five to 15 years) and Wednesdays at 4.30pm to 6pm for juniors (five to 15 years) and 6pm to 7.30pm for seniors (16 years and over). Find the club on Facebook at Senshi Do Kickboxing or email shihanwill@gmail.com



Members of Oban Squash Club listen intently to squash professional Lisa McKenna.

## Former professional coaches Oban players

Former Scottish professional squash player Lisa McKenna had a busy weekend at Atlantis Leisure when members of Oban Squash Club signed up for her coaching sessions.

Lisa reached number 37 in the world during her professional career and has turned to coaching to share her invaluable knowledge and love of the game.

Oban Squash Club hosted the event which saw every level of player from within

### SQUASH

their ranks, from junior to adult, enjoy sessions with Lisa over the weekend.

The timetable was full from 9.30am till 5.30pm both days.

Lisa will be back in a couple of months for more coaching. Anyone interested in taking up squash should get in touch with Jackie Kersley on 07816 459503. All ages and abilities welcome.



Mark Wilson, left, of England, and Charlie McLaughlin, Scotland, in action at the IKKU Scottish Open Knockdown Karate Championships in Glasgow.

OT

## Bob's US Masters qualification bid suffers double blow

Bob MacIntyre's bid to qualify for his maiden US Masters appearance suffered a double blow at the weekend.

First came the news The Kenyan Open, due to start on Thursday, had been postponed because of Coronavirus. Secondly, Bob had a disappointing day at the Qatar Masters on Sunday where a final round 75 left him in 61st place and unable to improve his world ranking position.

News of the Kenyan cancellation came after the Kenyan government announced the postponement of all international meetings and conferences including their national golf open.

Keith Pelley, European Tour chief executive, said: 'We understand and totally respect the decision made by the government of Kenya in these difficult times. We are looking into the possibility of rescheduling the tournament later in the season, but that remains simply a possibility right now. We have no definitive plans at this stage.'

While undoubtedly a blow to Bob's bid for a place in the Masters, his manager Iain Stoddart said that he agreed with the decision. 'We are dealing with something

### GOLF

that goes beyond golf,' said Iain. Bob's next scheduled appearance – world ranking permitting – is at the WGC World Matchplay Championship in Austin Texas on Thursday March 26.

The disappointment of the postponement in Kenya was compounded by a tough few days at the Qatar Masters. After opening with a solid 68, Bob had a cold day with the putter on Friday, but battled to make the cut at two under par.

A sparkling front nine of 33 on Saturday looked like Bob might get into a position to bid for a top ten finish, but a level par back nine left him with a lot of ground to make up on Sunday. Unfortunately for Bob, four bogies in his opening five holes derailed any potential challenge and he eventually signed off with a four over par 75.

The tournament was won by Spaniard Jorge Campillo after an epic play-off with Bob's fellow Scot David Drysdale. Drysdale was seeking his first win on tour after playing in almost 500 tournaments, which gives an insight of the size of task Bob faces to get that all important first victory under his belt.

### ADULT FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Central Scottish AFL: Cinema Cup, first round - St Patrick's FP 2, Oban Saints 4; Greater Glasgow AFL Division Three - Oban Saints GG 2, Westcliff 0; Scottish Amateur FL: Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 2, Neilston 1; Lochgilhead Red Sar v Dunoon, postponed; Premier Division Two - Houston United v Tarbert, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Central Scottish AFL - Premier 1B - Lesmahagow v Oban Saints; Greater Glasgow AFL - Division Three - Oban Saints GG v Glenvale; Scottish Amateur FL - Premier Division One - Busby v Campbeltown Pupils; Dunoon v Glynhill Moorcroft; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Strathaven; Jimmy Marshall Cup, second round - Lochgilhead Red Star v Motherwell Thistle.

### OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

## Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Milton Rovers 0 v Under-14s 1; Thistle Weir 3 v Under-15s 5; Westercommon Star 2 v Under-17s 1

# Saints carve ou

St Patrick's FP	2
Oban Saints	4
Cinema Cup - first round	

A makeshift Oban Saints side missing a number of key players recorded an unlikely battling Central Scottish Amateur Football League Cinema Cup victory against three-time Scottish Amateur Cup winners St Patrick's FP in Dumbarton last Saturday.

At a windswept Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, goals from Myles McAuley, Craig MacEwan, David Beaton and Cammy Hill won the battle of the Saints for Oban against old friends and former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals St Pat's.

Dene Cassells, James Ford and Scott Maitland joined long-term injury victims Matty Kelly and Matt Rippon on the sidelines adding to the selection problems of co-Manager Willie Gemmell. Gemmell's own absence, coupled with that of management colleague Donald Campbell, left coach Jamie Graham in charge, ably assisted by coach Peter MacCallum and secretary David Buchanan.

Saints lined up with captain for the day Graham Douglas in goal behind a back three of Ker Newbigging, Steven MacLeod and Daniel Croarkin. Across the midfield were Ruaridh Horne, Gavin Forgive, Myles McAuley, Lewis Cameron and Ross Cannon. The front two were David Beaton and Craig MacEwan. Coach Jamie

### HOCKEY

#### Continued from page 56

The second half started similarly to the previous half, with Uddingston having most of the possession and they got their second with another well-worked goal flicked into the bottom left corner.

Uddingston looked likely to score again as they piled on relentless pressure, but Zeph Petit, who was playing at left back, found the ball in his own half and after dribbling past four players flicked the ball into the bottom corner.

Oban soaked up the pressure for the next seven minutes, with Gavin Yates and Asher Petit, centre backs, stifling the Uddingston attack.

It means Oban picked up a vital three points in the hope of retaining West 2 status. The next game is Anchor away.

Graham joined teenagers Cammy Hill and Aaron McKay on the bench.

Saints kicked off with the strong wind at their backs and fashioned an opening for Lewis Cameron inside the first minute. Cameron raced onto a lay-off from Craig MacEwan but sent his effort from the edge of the box straight into the midriff of St Pat's keeper Brian Gallacher.

A good ball up the right wing from Kerr Newbigging for Craig MacEwan saw the Saints striker bundled over by Ross Cannon, handing Lewis Cameron a chance to put the ball into the St Pat's box. Cameron's free-kick was well met by MacEwan at the near post with Brian Gallacher only able to parry the header back into the danger area. MacEwan was quickest to react and, from the right of the six-yard box, lifted the ball back across the face of goal for Myles McAuley to head into the net for the opening goal.

After a slow start, the hosts began to show their Premier Division class and carved out the first of a number of good first half opportunities in the 16th minute. Scottish amateur international striker Ciaran McElroy was allowed to carry the ball a long way on the right and cut into the box to unleash a powerful right foot shot which, fortunately for Saints, flew well off target.

Another McElroy run on the right was stopped, illegally in the opinion of referee Stephen Payne, by Ross Maitland five minutes later. Martin Currie rolled the free-kick from the corner of the box back to skipper Dominic Ruane for a shot which Graham Douglas did well to hold at the second attempt.

Pointless back chat to Mr Payne after a disputed 22nd minute free-kick award earned Craig MacEwan and Joseph Coleman a place in the referee's notebook. This would later prove costly for the St Pat's central defender.

St Pat's striker Ryan McColl got the better of Kerr Newbigging to fire a left foot shot just over before right back Dominic McElroy found his way into Mr Payne's notebook for pulling back Ross Maitland in the 29th minute.

The hosts levelled from the penalty spot on the half hour mark after benefiting from an extremely harsh decision given against Steven MacLeod. The once again well forward Dominic McElroy appeared to run into MacLeod after the experienced head at the heart of the Saints makeshift



Myles McAuley heads home the opening goal.

back three had made a clean sliding interception.

Mr Payne, however, considered MacLeod had caught McElroy with his challenge and awarded a penalty kick. St Pat's skipper Dominic Ruane expertly tucked away the spot kick to level the scores.

Myles McAuley joined the growing list of miscreants in Mr Payne's notebook in the 33rd minute before Ryan McColl narrowly failed to connect with a tempting cross from left back Neil Allan.

Saints rediscovered their attacking threat with a good move up the right wing in the 39th minute involving Kerr Newbigging, Ruaridh Horne and David Beaton, with only Craig MacEwan's usually reliable first touch denying the Saints leading goalscorer a clear sight of goal.

Ciaran McElroy continued to show why he figures so prominently in Scottish Amateur Select manager Colin MacLeod's plans with another driving run and cross from the right which Stephen Gardiner, on the stretch, headed over from four yards out.

After surviving a dominant spell from the hosts, Saints regained the lead in the 41st minute. A lofted ball over the top from Ruaridh Horne picked out a clever run from Lewis Cameron. Brian Gallacher was alive to the danger and came a long way out of his box to beat Cameron to Horne's through ball. Luck, however, deserted the St Pat's keeper when Craig MacEwan controlled his attempted clearance and sent it sailing back over his head into the unguarded net.

The Saints goal continued to lead a charmed life when,

on the stroke of half-time, Ciaran McElroy sent over another excellent cross which Joseph Cullen glanced wide of target from three yards.

Despite conceding the considerable wind advantage to their hosts, Saints made a good start to the second half and were unlucky to see a Lewis Cameron through ball for Craig MacEwan taken off the toe of the Saints striker before Gavin Forgive fired the loose ball 12 inches over the crossbar.

The hosts drew level for a second time after a hotly disputed free-kick awarded for handball against Kerr Newbigging. From the corner of the 18-yard box, Martin Currie bent the ball into the corridor of uncertainty between defenders and goalkeeper and was delighted to see the ball bounce beyond the despairing grasp of Graham Douglas and into the net.

Parity lasted just three minutes though as David Beaton gained his reward for a punishing shift against



Cammy Hill fires the ball home to safely into round two of the Cinema Cup.

# t gutsy win



Match report and photographs: Derek Black.

Celebrations after Craig MacEwan puts Saints 2-1 ahead.

imposing central defenders Ross Cannon and Joseph Coleman. After Coleman had been penalised for a shove on Craig MacEwan just inside the St Pat's half, Saints worked the ball forward for Beaton who raced away from Cannon and Coleman to slot the ball past the advancing Brian Gallacher.

The hosts response to falling behind for a third time was to send on 2017 Central Scottish Amateur Football League Player of the Year Kevin McElroy in favour of Stephen Gardiner.

Pressed into action on the right, McElroy drew a 66-minute foul from Daniel Croarkin which earned the Saints' emergency defender a yellow card. Croarkin, however, immediately redeemed himself by heading clear Ryan McColl's free-kick.

Saints made their first change with 20 minutes remaining sending on Cammy Hill to replace David Beaton.

Joseph Coleman's earlier yellow card for dissent came back to haunt him when

referee Payne took exception to another comment from the Scottish Amateur Select man and sent the big central defender for an early bath.

The woodwork denied St Pat's a third equaliser when Dominic Ruane rattled the crossbar with a thumping 74th minute drive.

### Space

Pressing forward in search of an equaliser, the 10 men were leaving space at the back for Saints to exploit and Lewis Cameron found Cammy Hill in the clear in the 76th minute but the teenage striker dragged his shot across the face of goal and wide of Brian Gallacher's right hand post.

In serious danger of running out of lead for his pencil, Mr Payne added Kerr Newbigging to the lengthy list of cautions in the 78th minute.

Matthew Devine replaced Martin Currie for the closing 10 minutes and his cross from the right in the 82nd minute was hooked just wide by full-back Dominic McElroy who had again added his support

to the attack. Ruaridh Horne took a whack on the left ankle in the 85th minute and, from the resulting free-kick, Gavin Forgive threaded the ball through to Lewis Cameron who fired a left foot shot from 18 yards narrowly over the crossbar.

Horne failed to recover from his knock and was replaced by Aaron McKay who was asked to take on an unfamiliar defensive role.

The hosts threw everything into the search for an equaliser and had Saints pinned back in their own box with a succession of corner kicks which the Saints defence, with Steven MacLeod an inspiration at its heart, manfully repelled.

Cammy Hill and Ryan McColl became the latest to have Mr Payne reaching for his yellow card for pushing and shoving in the centre circle.

From the resulting free-kick awarded in St Pat's favour, Saints skipper for the day Graham Douglas took the pressure off his embattled

defence by coming through a ruck of bodies to make a clean catch.

Moving into time added on for stoppages, Saints invited more pressure with a cheaply conceded free-kick which earned Gavin Forgive the final yellow card of the match. Graham Douglas once again made a telling contribution with a solid clearing punch paving the way for the killer goal. Lewis Cameron and Aaron McKay linked up well on the left from where Cameron found Craig MacEwan inside the centre circle. MacEwan's perfectly weighted pass sent Cammy Hill racing through where he kept his nerve to lift the ball over Brian Gallacher on the edge of his box and make the tie safe.

Saints reward for their gutsy against the odds win is another hugely difficult away tie at West of Scotland Cup holders Bannockburn.

This Saturday Saints return to league business with a trip to face promotion rivals Lesmahagow.



make the score 2-4 and see Saints a Cup. Photograph: John Rodgers.

David Beaton makes it 3-2.



SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES  
WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780  
M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk  
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban



## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures  
1°C to 7°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
4°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
2°C to 8°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 12, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	01.23	0.0	07.23	4.2
	13.57	0.4	19.42	3.9
<b>Fri</b>	02.06	0.2	08.01	4.0
	14.37	0.6	20.21	3.7
<b>Sat</b>	02.51	0.4	08.40	3.7
	15.20	0.9	21.02	3.5
<b>Sun</b>	03.40	0.7	09.22	3.3
	16.09	1.2	21.50	3.2
<b>Mon</b>	04.34	1.1	10.13	3.0
	17.08	1.5	22.57	2.9
<b>Tues</b>	05.38	1.5	11.42	2.6
	18.21	1.7	***	**
<b>Wed</b>	00.57	2.8	06.59	1.7
	15.13	2.6	20.02	1.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

Bob's US Masters qualification bid suffers double blow

Saints carve out gutsy win

# Superb second for John in Moto3 season opener

## MOTO3 RACING

A tense, tactical performance saw John McPhee take second place on the podium after his first race of the season for Petronas Sprinta Racing on Sunday.

Competing in the Qatar Moto3 race, the Oban speedster worked hard to get himself into a challenging position before just losing out on the win by 0.053 seconds to Spaniard Albert Arenas.

The first race of the year did not start the way John might have wanted, after finding himself stuck in the pack as the riders made their way into the first corner after lights out.

However, the Scot stayed with the 18-strong pack throughout the opening phases of the race, biding his time until the field started to spread out. Constantly in the mix for the top seven places, John took his turn on the front of the pack before running wide and dropping back a couple of places.

The last lap saw him put some space between himself and third place as he challenged for the lead. Tucking in as much as possible behind his screen, McPhee crossed the line just 0.053 seconds shy of first place.

Speaking after the race, John praised his team that had worked so hard throughout the off-season.

'I've worked with my crew



Oban Moto 3 racer John McPhee leads the pack in Qatar.

and really focused on being alone on track to work on the race pace,' he added. 'To then put all the practice into the performance was a really nice feeling.'

'The first seven or eight laps caught me a little unawares as I didn't expect some of the

guys to be so strong. I knew my main strength was at the end of the race on the used tyre so I was keeping that in mind trying to stay with the top seven.'

'I almost put the perfect plan together. I thought about making a lunge on

the last corner of the last lap but I knew from watching races from the last few years that only once has someone been able to lead from the last corner across the line so I thought it was a good plan to be second out of the last corner. It didn't pay off but I

was really happy to be on the podium.'

Due to the postponement of the Thai GP, there will now be an extended break for the team before Moto3 action is due to restart at the Circuit of the Americas from April 3 to April 5.

## Oban bounce back against Uddingston

### HOCKEY

Oban were defeated 6-0 by Hillhead 4s last week, but they were still hopeful of picking up points against Uddingston's fourth team.

Uddingston dominated from the start with Oban stuck in their own half. But against the run of play, Oban got themselves in front, Andy Hodge scoring from a counter attack from two yards out.

The relentless pressure led to a well-worked goal for Uddingston with their striker spinning then flicking home. Straight after the restart, Oban had their noses out in front again, with Andy Hodge smashing it home from the top of the 'D' after great team play. The first half ended with Oban 2-1 up.

Continued on page 54.



THE  
**ARGYLL  
FURNITURE**  
STORE

Breadalbane Street  
Oban, Argyll PA34 5NZ  
Tel/Fax 01631 564443

4.6 Crystal bed **only £215**  
Drawer and headboard extra



**WOW!**  
**FANTASTIC  
OFFER**

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8502

Thursday 12 March, 2020

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



### Canna 'Solas' event appeals for islands inspiration

## WIN

WIN £200 WORTH OF FERRY TRAVEL

Entry details on page 42.

# Concern over cocaine crisis

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Police are appealing for any information regarding the movement of drugs to and around Kinlochleven in what could be a wider drugs network.

At a recent meeting of Kinlochleven Community Council, PC Stephen Cooper said there had been seizures of what is believed to be cannabis.

While encouraging to get drugs off the streets, PC Cooper made it clear this was not the end of the problem.

He said: 'I can report that last week there was a positive drugs warrant executed in the village, albeit small amounts of class B. We are aware there may be more serious issues in the village with drugs. We are hearing about class A drugs now, with the main one being cocaine, which is a worry.'

Police believe the drugs network in Kinlochleven is not isolated and could stretch to Fort William or even further, but need solid evidence before applying for warrants.

'At the moment, intelligence is just not coming in,' continued PC Cooper. 'There are rumours about, but we cannot work off rumours, as the Misuse of Drugs Act does not allow that.'

'We need to know who these people are, where they are selling and even just how much they are selling it for.'

**'Work is currently being done in Fort William, just in case there is a supply chain to Kinlochleven.'**

'We are keen to get on these people as soon as possible and get in at the top. Work is currently being done in Fort William, just in case there is a supply chain from there to Kinlochleven.'

'There are number plate recognition cameras and if we identify a vehicle we think is involved, making regular trips from Glasgow for example, then we can put intercepts in place.'

PC Cooper added: 'They are using Snapchat which is completely untraceable as it deletes from the device after it has been seen. We are up against it, but they have to be lucky all the time, we've just got to be lucky once.'

KCC chairwoman Yvonne Rosie told the Lochaber Times it might be a bigger issue than was being made out.

She said: 'Perhaps due to being a smaller environment, people may not wish to expand on information, concerned that people or parents they know would be caught up in the upset which perhaps would ensue.'

'It is a difficult subject to properly broach. Class A drugs appear to be the drug of choice as they are fairly cheap.'

Anyone with information can call anonymously on 0800 555 111 or police on 101.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

## Inverlochty youngsters character read-y for World Book Day



Pupils at Inverlochty Primary School really threw themselves into the occasion last week when they dressed up as their favourite literary characters to mark World Book Day on Thursday – including P1 pupil Joshua Howat. Turn to page 21 for more photographs. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

**HIGHLAND CINEMA**

## THE HIGHLAND CINEMA IS RECRUITING!

See inside for details...

LT

# Campaign is launched to combat huge drugs waste

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Community pharmacies and GP practices across Lochaber are teaming up in a campaign to reduce medicines wastage.

Thousands of patients require important medications, but each year in Scotland an estimated £20 million of medicines is wasted.

Some of this is unavoidable, for example if a patient's prescription is changed or stopped, or if the patient is required to keep medicines in reserve at home in case of flare-ups of a condition.

But Fort William GP Dr Finlay Wild says more can be done to minimise wastage. 'Reducing waste would have large financial benefits for the struggling NHS – a £20 million saving could pay for 600 extra nurses or 1,200 extra carers – but would also reduce the environmental costs of these medicines on a planet in climate crisis,' he told the Lochaber Times.

'Reducing waste means fewer resources are used in the first place – resources which could be used to help others elsewhere in the NHS.

'Also, studies have shown



Dr Finlay Wild, left, with Boots pharmacist Alina Tkaczewska and NHS primary care pharmacist Chris Cameron, with the pile of unused prescription drugs returned to the High Street store in just two weeks. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

that more than 600 drugs and their metabolites have been found in the environment worldwide. They enter the environment – through water, soil, sludge, and organisms –

and can end up in drinking water, and accumulate in fish, vegetables, and livestock.

'Improper disposal of medicines by flushing them down the toilet or putting

them in the standard rubbish collection is making this issue worse – and it's especially wasteful if the medicine was never needed in the first place.'

So what can we do? Here are suggestions from Dr Wild to help tackle the problem:

■ First, let's clear the decks – please bring any unwanted medications that are cluttering up your cupboards back to your chemist or dispensing GP practice for safe disposal. They can't be reused for other patients at the moment – our Lochaber project will accurately measure the cost and types of medicines, in order to tackle this problem.

■ Next, we are asking patients to think carefully about what medications they are ordering – don't just tick all your repeats automatically if you still have supplies of some tablets: use these up before ordering more.

■ Make sure the chemist knows what you need and doesn't supply any other items – this will avoid you building up a wasteful stockpile at home.

■ Let's keep Lochaber green – we can help look after our beautiful environment by avoiding flushing medicines down the toilet and not putting them in the bin either – always return unwanted or expired medicines to your chemist for safe disposal.

■ Are you on inhalers? All inhalers should be recycled by returning them to the chemist – some types have a large carbon footprint but this can be reduced by recycling the gases inside once it is empty of medication.

■ Are you taking your medication? If you aren't taking a tablet regularly – possibly because of side effects or because you don't know what it is for – talk to your doctor who can discuss whether it is still needed, or if there are any non-drug options for you.

**March is Pet Anxiety Month**

Buy one Adaptil or Feliway Diffuser and get a free refill or 60ml spray. Come and see us for more info!

**FELIWAY** **ADAPTIL**

Crown Vets, Glen Nevis Place, Fort William PH33 6DA  
Tel: 01397 702727 info@crownvetsfortwilliam.co.uk

**ALLIED SURVEYORS SCOTLAND**

**Home Reports and Valuations**

Local surveyors operating throughout Argyll, the Highlands and Islands

Dunoon 01369 705000  
Helensburgh 01436 674976  
Fort William 01397 705541

[www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com](http://www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com)

# Surgeon backs call for hospital to be 'ambitious'

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Retired surgeon David Sedgwick has backed calls to ensure the Belford Hospital's replacement in Fort William has bold and ambitious ideas at the heart of its design and is fit for the 21st century.

Mr Sedgwick was speaking after Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford visited the Belford to meet frontline staff and management on Friday. Mr Blackford urged NHS bosses to ensure the new facility was 'bold and ambitious' and had 'surgical care at its core' to best serve the needs of the community.

'The NHS must ensure the new hospital has appropriate capabilities and the appropriate staff levels. So I'm calling for the new hospital to have two operating theatres and to employ general surgeons who perhaps don't just serve the hospital in Fort William but fulfil the historic role which saw the Belford partnering with the hospital in Broadford on Skye - and perhaps even with the NHS hospital in Oban,' said Mr Blackford.



David Sedgwick.

'Let's make sure that when the new hospital is built it's one we can be proud of and that we back the staff we have in Fort William. Let's be ambitious, let's be bold. Let's build a general hospital that's fit for purpose.'

'Let's have a general hospital in Fort William that has surgical care at its core, which can deliver for all the people in the western Highlands.'

Mr Sedgwick retired from his surgeon's post at the Belford Hospital six years ago after more than two decades working in the hospital's operating theatres. For the past six years he has been part of surgical

teaching teams visiting Rwanda, East Jerusalem, Gaza and Cambodia.

Mr Sedgwick said he echoed 'wholeheartedly' the comments by Mr Blackford regarding the commitment and high quality of the present staff at the Belford Hospital.

'As a Consultant Rural General Surgeon for 28 years - 21 of which were at the Belford - and an active member of the steering group for the new hospital in Fort William, I would endorse the importance of having bold and ambitious ideas about the design of the new facility,' he said.

'It certainly requires two the-

atres and an endoscopy room to give an adequate service for resident specialist general surgeons and appropriate facilities for the visiting super-specialist surgeons from the bigger units.

'This would enable patients to have appropriate procedures performed locally and having to travel only for the more complex procedures or if they need intensive care support afterwards.'

'There should also be an adequate Accident and Emergency department with a well equipped diagnostic department with X-ray, ultra-sound CT and MRI scanning. The hospital should be designed to have consultant-led general medical and anaesthetic departments. It is important the board of NHS Highland and the Raigmore consultant body get behind these plans and we start to see some movement in bringing them to fruition.'

# Rescue teams recover bodies of missing men

The body of a man reported missing last week and another who was lost in an avalanche were both found over the weekend.

Peter Munro, 41, went missing last Tuesday (March 3) from his home near Lochcarron and was thought to be hitchhiking along the A87, A890 or A896.

An extensive search involving Kintail Mountain Rescue Team, Coastguard officers, the Search and Rescue Dog Association and Coastguard helicopter was conducted on Friday March 6.

Mr Munro's body was found that morning on the shoreline to the east of Kyle of Lochalsh and recovered with the aid of the Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

The body of Manchester climber Andrew Vine, 41, was found by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team on Aonach Mor on Sunday March 8.

Mr Vine had been climbing with a partner on February 28 when it is believed they were caught in an avalanche.



Peter Munro.

His companion suffered severe injuries, but was able to make her way to the Nevis Range to raise the alarm.

An extensive rescue effort from LMRT, Glencoe and Cairngorm MRTs then took place, and a thaw meant Mr Vine's body was recovered.

A team spokesperson said: 'This was a protracted rescue which involved approximately 800 man-hours and three teams from [independent Scottish Mountain Rescue], Nevis Range and Coastguard helicopters.'

# Council budget includes near five per cent hike in council tax

Highland Council has agreed a balanced budget which includes its biggest ever single investment in roads with an extra £20 million capital announced in its proposals for the year 2020/21.

But it also sees an increase in council tax by 4.84 per cent, with three per cent used to balance the budget and 1.84 per cent for investing in roads.

Council tax reduction recipients will continue to be protected (generally Bands A-C).

The increase would enable a fund of £20 million for capital schemes and an additional £1.3 million of annual revenue for road maintenance.

The budget will see an increase in the council's reserves to improve the council's medium- to long-term financial strategy and a more resilient position to address a number of challenges and



Council leader Margaret Davidson.

risks which lie ahead. There was also agreement to invest £1 million of additional funding in a 'Highland Deal for a sustainable future' - a Skills for Work Charter which will develop a range of initiatives and opportunities to retain young people, address poverty and reverse

depopulation trends in rural areas. A further £0.5 million is to be earmarked for rural transport projects.

Budget leader Alister Mackinnon commented: 'This budget is a road to recovery for the council. We need to build our reserves for a sustainable future, make the best use of our resources to transform the council, build our resilience and make substantial improvement to our roads. These are ambitious budget proposals which also seek to invest in people, skills, plant and places for a more sustainable future.'

Leader of the council Margaret Davidson added: 'The reduction in available capital money is a huge issue for us and will mean we have difficult choices to make, so this investment strategy for our roads will be tremendously important for people in the Highlands.'

## 'Keep Oban Beautiful' will be hosting an OBAN SPRING CLEAN

at the end of March, culminating on the weekend of 28th and 29th.

Groups, businesses and individuals are invited to 'Pick a Patch' to clean up or to join in with friends or neighbours.



Sign up by contacting our co-ordinator Claire Rizos, at [c.rizos@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rizos@btinternet.com) or on 07891 543540.

More information can be found on Facebook pages - Keep Oban Beautiful or LoveOban.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Oban Business Improvement District

[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



# Stags will leave on their own when feeding stops

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

People in Kinlochleven are being advised by Scottish Natural Heritage to simply ignore stags which have begun to get overly comfortable in the village.

A well-attended meeting of the Kinlochleven Community Council (KCC) heard that one of the stags had put its nose into a local's bag of shopping and they have been seen on the path which connects Wades Road to the B863 when children are walking home from school.

It was suggested the problem should be dealt with before the deer get even more comfortable in the village, and that they should be shot as soon as the stalking season begins in July.

KCC did not want to endorse such drastic action,



The stags have a habit of grazing around the Park Road play area, leading to concerns of disease being spread from faeces and ticks from the deer contributing to Lyme disease.

but found there was little residents could do to stop the deer wandering around the village other than leave them alone. Operations manager for wildlife management with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Donald Fraser told the Lochaber Times residents

should stop interacting with the stags to avoid more brazen behaviour in future.

He said: 'The first thing that needs to be done is to stop feeding the deer, and after that then just ignore them. If they know they can't get food in the village any more, they

will naturally move away and not cause an issue.

'The longer the feeding goes on, the more used to it and dependent they will become on the food. There will be plenty of food in the surrounding area, but they're going for the easy pickings.

'While stags will lose their antlers in a few weeks, they can still act aggressively by kicking and getting up on their hind legs. Warmer weather usually takes them into higher ground as well, so stopping the feeding now will mean they should leave the area on their own.

'The more dependent and habituated the deer are on handouts, the more comfortable they will become with looking for food from people. Looking through bags is a sign of that and their fear of humans has diminished.'

There is also the risk of Lyme disease posed by the ticks which deer bring into the residential areas of the village.

Mr Cameron said the best way to exclude deer from a particular area was with a fence as other deterrent measures had little effect.

The community council has been doing what it can to prevent the stags becoming a danger to public safety by informing people of the risks they pose by feeding wild deer.

There is an awareness that if someone was to be hurt and the deer become a public safety concern, more serious action will have to be taken.

A statement, asking people to stop feeding deer, from KCC said: 'For some of you this will be again a slight on your right to do as you wish, for others it is confirmation that something more permanent ought to be done.'

'For the larger majority, feeding should stop immediately and nature should take precedence.

'Maybe legislation is required but that too takes time and we can't wait years for that to take effect.'

trusted with your home for over  
**65 years**

**87%** of homeowners say aspects of their home contribute to their **positive mental health**

A conservatory meets all the main requirements that homeowners have highlighted as important elements of being happy in your home



Kate Forbes MSP with Housing Minister Kevin Stewart, second left, Lachie MacDonald, left, chief executive of Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association, and a tradesman on the site of an affordable homes project at Kyleakin, on Skye.

## More than 1,500 new homes built in Highlands last year

New housing figures reveal that more than 1,500 new homes were completed in the Highlands last year.

The latest statistics from the Scottish Government show that more than 9,300 affordable homes were delivered in 2019 across the country, an increase of more than 25 per cent since 2016.

Meanwhile, the number of homes for social rent in the Highlands hit 533 last year. Of these, 181 were new council homes and 352 were housing association properties.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'Housing, at affordable prices, is probably one of the most frequently raised issues with me, showing how important it is.'

'This is partly due to the lack of house-building over a decade ago, and that is why it is so important that the Scottish Government stepped in to build affordable homes.'

'Just last year alone, we've seen 1,506 new homes completed in the Highlands, more than 500 of which are

for social rent.

'Ultimately, a safe, warm and affordable home is the cornerstone of any society and we cannot combat depopulation if there are not enough houses.'

'There is still work to be done, which is why the Scottish Government has a current target of 50,000 affordable homes by 2021, and also why it is helping first-time buyers here in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch get on the property ladder by lending them part of their deposit.'

Improve your home and well-being  
with a Cairngorm conservatory

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk | f t

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000  
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315  
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956



LT

# 'Fairies' are defended in battle with forestry bosses

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

It might not be quite the clash of civilisations as imagined by author J R R Tolkien in his Lord of the Rings books, but a dispute involving the fairies of a Ballachulish woodland and forestry bosses is shaping up to be a bit of a bruising encounter all the same.

It was sparked after Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) put up signs at woodland at nearby Brecklet asking people not to leave artefacts such as the sort of small 'fairy doors' that are popular with young children.

However, Highland SNP councillor Niall McLean has contacted the forestry authority after the issue was raised by people disappointed FLS was taking what they saw as a heavy-handed approach to the issue.

'There's a few of these wee



The 'fairies' are upset about a plan to remove the doors to their houses in woodland.

doors been left up against some of the trees and it's been done by a grandparent or someone similar – it's been quite well done and it has proved a popular way of getting the smaller children keen to visit the woods for walks,' Mr McLean said.

'Surely the point is we want our children to engage with our woodlands and, if this en-

courages more to visit, I would have thought that was a good thing. In fact, much of the actual rubbish that can be found at this site, such as protective plastic tree tubes, seems to have come from Forestry and Land Scotland itself. For example, the sign asking people not to leave items is the biggest piece of plastic in the area.'

And Mr McLean revealed he

had been sent a letter purporting to be from the 'Brecklet fairies' angry about the actions of FLS.

It states: 'We, the Brecklet fairies, send a strong message from our Queen that we are not urchins but can be if provoked.'

'We have been here since the dawn of time. We have seen the Picts, the Norse Men, Romans (Leg IX ), the Gaels, the Clan

MacDonald, the Quarry men, the Crofters, the Forestry Commission, now you Forest and Land Scotland, come and go. You accuse we fairies of introducing non-natural products to this forest when we are in fact recycling discarded items. You, on the other hand, have unnaturally introduced all the non-native trees. We used to live under mighty oaks and Scots pines that supported a diverse ecosystem. You exclude wildlife with your miles of fences while casting a shadow on life with your trees only fit for pulp. Your sign is the biggest piece of plastic in this wood. You were gifted this site and have a responsibility to the children to make it a place to enjoy.'

Mr McLean added: 'I believe in the fairies and I will treat them as I would other community members. But there is a serious note to this, which is, if

we want to encourage children to enjoy and look after the natural world, then we have to make them feel welcome in such places.'

An FLS spokesperson said: 'Getting young people into woodlands to experience nature is a big part of what we do and fairy houses are a great way to encourage them to visit.'

'Fairy doors/houses made out of natural materials and that are located in areas slightly off the path are great. But over-sized doors or anything that uses materials that are not biodegradable are not so good – they tend to make the site look a little messy. It is important – for the fairies and for our other woodland visitors – that the forest stays as natural as possible, so at the end of this month we'll be removing any fairy houses that are directly on the path or made of inappropriate materials.'

**EXPRESS YOURSELF!**

trusted with your homes for  
**65 years**

Design your dream door

Visit our home improvement **showroom** and get inspired!  
Design online at [cairngormgroup.co.uk/design](http://cairngormgroup.co.uk/design)

Cairngorm Group  
tougher.warmer.smarter

[info@cairngormgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@cairngormgroup.co.uk)  
[www.cairngormgroup.co.uk](http://www.cairngormgroup.co.uk)

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000  
 Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315  
 6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

## Consultations scheduled for electricity line replacement

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Public consultation events over what has been described as one of the most significant energy investments in the West Highlands since power was first brought to the area in the 1950s are to be held in Glengarry, Glenelg and Fort Augustus this month.

News of the events come after SSEN Transmission this week announced plans to replace the existing electricity transmission power line which runs from Fort Augustus to Ardmore in the north of Skye.

The line was constructed in three distinct sections between 1956 and 1989 and is reaching the end of its operational life.

Its planned replacement is essential to maintain security of supply to homes and businesses along its route, as well as to the Western Isles, and will have a greater capacity to enable the connection of renewable energy looking to connect to the transmission network, supporting the transition to 'net zero' emissions.

Given the scale of the replacement project, SSEN intends to 'future proof' the replacement line to allow the connection of additional renewables to help meet government 'net zero' climate change targets.

The series of consultation events, which also includes sessions on Skye, are planned

### 'The replacement of the Fort Augustus to Skye line is a major investment, critical to security of supply'

along the route of the line and will take place in the second half of March.

These events will present the preferred 1km wide route corridor proposed for the replacement line and seek feedback on this to help inform a more detailed route and alignment study.

The existing line consists of a combination of overhead wooden pole and steel lattice tower structures along its

route. To meet the required capacity of the replacement line, steel structures will be required from Fort Augustus to Edinbane on Skye, with wooden poles remaining from Edinbane to Ardmore.

In areas of particular sensitivity, undergrounding and subsea cables may be considered in short sections where they could address specific consenting issues, subject to environmental and engineering considerations.

As well as the conventional pylons, SSEN Transmission is also considering the use of alternative innovative steel structures that may result in reduced environmental and visual impacts.

Further public consultation will take place in the autumn to present the technology options proposed as part of the detailed preferred route consultation stage.

Project manager Euan Smith commented: 'The replacement of the Fort Augustus to Skye line represents a major investment in the area, critical to maintain security of supply and support the transition to net zero emissions.'

# 'Wait and see' over potential coronavirus impact on Fort

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

With 14 cruise ships due to call at Fort William this year and the first due in just a few weeks, there has been concern on how they may be affected by the current global outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

Sarah Kennedy, company secretary with Fort William Marina and Shoreline Community Interest Company, told the Lochaber Times this week that it was still very early days to try to gauge the potential impact.

Mrs Kennedy explained that with no dedicated port authority for Fort William, it was Highland Council which had to fill that function in an acting capacity.

And she says the local authority's marine superintendent has now sent all the ships' agents, who have booked visits for their liners



The cruise ship Artania on its maiden visit to Fort William last year. Photograph: FWMSC

to Fort William, notice that they must complete a Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) for the port authority before arriving.

'This form details various things such as what port they originated from – regardless of whether it is a foreign or

UK port – what ports they have visited in the last 14 days and if anyone on board is ill,' added Mrs Kennedy. 'This is pretty standard as they have to do this anyway – the difference being is that this is an official separate request.

'We are just standing by

waiting for whatever instructions we receive from the Scottish Government and seeing how this virus is being contained. We hope the effect will not significantly impact this method of visitors coming to Fort William but we will just have to wait and see.'

## WHAT'S ON

■ Saturday March 14: The EU Citizens' Rights Project will be hosting a free information event at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William from 11am to 1pm. It will be an opportunity to hear about the EU Settlement Scheme, EU citizens' rights before and after Brexit and ask any questions.

■ Tuesday March 17: An illustrated talk entitled Caman Play Shinty, by Hugh Dan MacLennan at Ardnamurchan High School, 7.30pm. In aid of Lochaber District Shinty Memories Group.

■ Wednesday March 18: Memories of Caol – by a Caol Dude: Join Hugh Dan MacLennan at Caol Community Centre, 2pm. In aid of Lochaber Shinty Memories Group.

■ Wednesday March 18: A Question of Shinty, quiz in Sunny's Bar, Fort William, at 7.30pm.

■ Saturday March 21: Caol Primary School spring fete with teas/coffees/soup/hot dogs. Also baking and bottle stalls, raffle and silent auction with some great prizes. Sammy's doughnut

stall. Face painting, nail painting. Bouncy castle, beat the goalie, crafts, games.

■ Saturday March 21: Meur Loch Abar Ceilidh, including medal-winning guest singers, as well as the South Uist dance band Sound of Kilphedar. The Railway Club, Fort William, 7.30pm. All proceeds to Meur Loch Abar Mòd Club.

■ Saturday March 21: A play inspired by graffiti discovered in Gaelic Bibles found in St John's Episcopal Church The Boys in the Gallery will play for one night at Ballachulish Hall. Doors are open 7pm with a 7.30pm start. Donations at the door go towards the church.

■ Sunday March 22: Friends of Nevis host a free, drop-in bird ringing event at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre from 9am to 3pm, subject to weather. Bird ringer John Owen will show people how and why birds are ringed, give an opportunity to see the birds, then watch them being released.

■ Friday March 27: Lochaber Piping Society recital. Moorings Hotel, Banavie, at 7.30pm.

## Free Clarins gifts at Gordons chemists

Gordons Chemists on George Street, Oban is renowned for offering a fabulous range of BIG BRANDS at UNBEATABLE prices. From medicines and healthcare products to household cleaning, it's a one-stop shop for all your everyday essentials! How convenient would it be to be able to purchase your everyday skin essentials at your local pharmacy too? Well at Gordons Chemists, you can!

With Oban's exclusive Clarins counter, you can receive FREE tailored advice and product recommendations from our very own Clarins consultant. Call in for a free consultation to find out more about your own skin. Gordons Chemists will help you to find the most suitable products to compliment your skin type and to incorporate seamlessly into your skincare regime.

And when better to call in than during the Clarins' Gift of Beauty event running from Thursday 12th – Saturday 28th March 2020 at Gordons Chemists. Between these dates call in for a consultation, buy two Clarins products (one to be skincare) and you can choose FOUR of your favourite Clarins travel essentials and take them away in a gorgeous beauty bag for FREE!

With this offer, you can take home FOUR of the below Clarins travel essentials in a gorgeous beauty bag:

- Gentle Foaming Cleanser – Dry/Sensitive 30ml
- One-Step Gentle Exfoliating Cleanser 30ml
- Toning Lotion 50ml
- Multi Active Day Cream 15ml
- Super Restorative Total Eye Concentrate 7ml
- Hand and Nail Treatment Cream 30ml
- Joli Blush Shade 2 Cheeky Pink 1.6g
- Crayon Khol/ Eyeliner Pencil 0.4g

So, be sure to get down and treat your skin to some Clarins love at Gordons Chemists, Oban!

(\*One collection per customer with two Clarins purchases – one to be skincare. While stocks last. Not to be used in conjunction with any other Clarins offer).



Gordons Chemists  
16 George Street  
Oban  
PA34 5SB  
01631562063

OPENING HOURS:  
MON – SAT:  
9:00AM – 5:30PM  
SUN:  
CLOSED

CLARINS

GIFT of BEAUTY

– WHICH 4 WILL YOU CHOOSE? –

Your choice of 4 beauty treats and a gorgeous beauty bag\*.



Available from Thursday 12  
– Saturday 28 March 2020

Plus  
Extra Gift  
Worth £22\*\*

GORDONS  
CHEMISTS

\*A choice of 4 different products per customer, when you buy two or more recommended Clarins products, one to be skincare. One gift per customer while stocks last, not to be used in conjunction with any other Clarins offer. \*\*Yours when you purchase an additional skincare product. Based on average retail value of standard size products.

LT

# Write on to the top after winning award

**Kirsteen Bell**, from Duisky, is a regular freelance reporter and contributor on The Lochaber Times. This week she tells of her delight at winning her first literary award.

Like most new writers, I have a busy life, fitting writing in around my family, work, studies, as well as trying to work on the croft.

As a result, most of the writing I've done in the past few years has been quite short and fragmented; it's difficult to get the space to step back and see if there might be a bigger picture.

When I applied for the Katharine Stewart Award, I was hoping for the time to plan out a longer piece of work under the guidance of a more experienced writer.

To be given Mark Cocker as a mentor has just been unbelievable; I've read a great deal of his work and I follow his writing in The Guardian Country Diary so I was a little awe-struck!

However, his input and advice have been exactly what I was hoping for and I'm going into the retreat next week with a much clearer idea of where I'm going with my writing.

Having a whole week to research and write in an environment like Moniack Mhor is an absolute gift.

Following the first tutorial with Mark, I'm hoping to focus more on the life and landscape of the croft – which fits well with the award as Katharine Stewart was, of course, both a crofter and a writer, writing regularly about her life on the croft for The Scotsman and eventually turning that into her book, *A Croft on the Hills*.

The life of the croft and its history often appear



Kirsteen Bell was 'awe-struck' by her mentor.

tangentially in my work, in the writing exercises I do as part of the Lochaber Writers' Group, in blog posts, and in the short pieces of prose I've had published to date, so it will be really interesting to see what happens when I turn my focus directly onto it.

The other really important part of the award for me is the motivation to keep writing.

It can be easy to let daily life take over, to wonder if what you're writing is good enough to persevere, if you should keep trying to write something publishable.

I write because I enjoy it, because I enjoy the process and craft of it, but it also helps me to have something to write towards, such as publishing a book.

■ Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre is based near Beauly.

■ The annual Katharine Stewart Award, who lived just a few miles from the Moniack Mhor in Abriachan, helps support an unpublished writer of non-fiction.

■ The award seeks to find and support new voices from the Highlands and Islands. This year, it particularly wanted to encourage applications from writers who take inspiration from, or feature the theme of, working in sympathy with the land, environment and culture.

■ The Katharine Stewart Award consists of retreat time at Moniack Mhor and two sessions with a writing mentor, one before and one after the retreat.

## Classic play comes to Lochaber

The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black, Black Oil will play at two Lochaber venues on its countrywide, rural tour.

The legendary piece of Scottish theatre tells the story of the exploitation of Scottish lands, waters and people over the centuries.

Originally written in the 1970s, the play toured around small venues across Scotland and was hailed as one of the most important shows in the history of Scottish theatre.

First stop in the Highlands will be in Dalmally on June 1. It then goes to South Uist on June 3, then two nights in Harris from June 5.

It then goes up to the northern Highlands before coming to the Sunart Centre in Strontian on June 17 and the penultimate performance of the tour will take place at the Ballachulish Village Hall on June 18.

To buy tickets or get more information on the play, visit the National Theatre of Scotland website.

auchrannie  
resort

Visit us on the beautiful Isle of Arran...

Find more information at:  
[www.auchrannie.co.uk](http://www.auchrannie.co.uk)

Auchrannie Resort  
Broddick  
Isle of Arran  
01770 302234

A range of accommodation including rooms, lodges & stylish retreats.

Three distinct dining experiences offering freshly prepared food from locally sourced ingredients.

With a destination spa, two leisure centres with pools & thermal suites as well as a variety of adventure activities & children's playbarn - there's something for everyone.

## Blackford urges increased uptake of Pension Credit

An estimated £2,835,000 of Pension Credit is not reaching the poorest pensioners in Ross, Skye and Lochaber each year – with an average payment of £39 per week going unclaimed.

The shocking figures have been released following a recent study by Independent Age which analysed Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) statistics on Pension Credit take-up.

Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, has urged residents to check their eligibility for Pension Credit, which is designed to keep pensioners out of poverty.

Backing Independent Age's Credit Where It's Due campaign, he stated: 'Pension Credit can make all the difference when paying for basic necessities, such as the weekly shop or heating the house.'

'But these statistics show that across Great Britain in 2017/18, Pension Credit take-up has not improved since the previous year.'

The DWP recently launched a 12-week awareness campaign focussing on Pension Credit. But Mr Blackford has



Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

urged the government to do more to tackle the issue.

'The government must create a comprehensive action plan, with firm take-up targets, and commission up-to-date research to gain a better understanding of why this money is not getting to the 1.15 million pensioner households missing out – including an estimated 1,386 households in Ross, Skye and Lochaber,' he said.

'It is unacceptable that while two million pensioners are living in poverty, more than £2.5 billion of Pension Credit is simply returned to government funds each year.

This must change. I fully endorse Independent Age's call for the DWP to make an action plan to raise take-up of this vital benefit.'

A spokesperson for Independent Age said: 'Officials at the DWP recently confirmed in an evidence session to the Scottish Parliament that if all older people received the benefits they are entitled to, including Pension Credit, pensioner poverty would be reduced to almost zero.'

'Independent Age will continue to campaign to ensure every pensioner receives the funds they are entitled to.'

# Distillery toasts £1.7m for growth

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

More than £1.7 million has been raised through both crowdfunding and private investors by the Nc'nean Distillery on Morvern.

The funding will help the continued growth of Nc'nean, located on an estate at Drimnin, and the launch of its first whisky later this year.

Nc'nean, which will continue to produce its award-winning Botanical Spirit, is a young, independent, organic whisky distillery that commenced production in 2017 with what it says is a strong sustainable ethos and innovative approach to spirit making.

Founded and run by CEO Annabel Thomas, the distillery exceeded its funding target in little over a week after launching the campaign on investment platform Seedrs.



Annabel Thomas.

Further funding was injected from existing and new private investors, bringing the total funding to more than £1.7m.

The investment will also go towards buying bottling equipment and supporting further portfolio expansion.

Kerry Sharp, director of the Scottish Investment Bank, the investment arm of Scottish Enterprise (one of Nc'nean's

key investors), commented: 'We are delighted to support this female-led innovative young company, which has a strong commitment to sustainability and is creating additional jobs in a rural area of Scotland.'

'We are excited to see how Nc'nean flourishes in the future and look forward to the release of its first whisky later this year.'

Ms Thomas added: 'Nc'nean's funding success shows the overwhelming support from our community in what we do. We would like to thank our existing investors for their continued support and welcome all our new investors on board.'

'Since inception, we have strived to drive change in the whisky industry through experimental spirits and sustainable production – 2020 will be our most exciting year to date as we introduce our whisky to

the world for the first time and continue to grow our business.'

Nc'nean's first product was a Botanical Spirit, a whisky-gin hybrid that showcases the distillery's unaged whisky spirit as its base.

Launched in late 2018, it was voted 'Top 10 most innovative new spirits' by The Spirits Business and has helped raise Nc'nean's profile as a creative player in the spirits category.

Originally produced in a limited run, the distillery will use part of the funding to continue the production of its Botanical Spirit.

Described by spirit experts at The Great British Food Awards 2019 as 'a tippie that's truly different' and 'made to celebrate Scotland's landscape within the spirit', it was also awarded a silver medal in the International Spirits Challenge 2019 and a gold in the Wizards of Whisky 2020.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

You've probably heard by now that 2020 is Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters.

As part of the year of celebrations, West Coast Waters 2020 (WCW) is an exciting new collaboration of 22 destination management groups from across the west coast which is progressing six exciting initiatives to encourage visitors to immerse their senses in all the west coast has to offer.

As the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber is home to some of the most awe-inspiring coasts, lochs and rivers in the country. The Lochaber area of West Coast Waters consists of the West Highland peninsulas of Ardnamurchan, Moidart and Morvern, the Road to the Isles and Small Isles, Knoydart, Glencoe, Fort William and the Great Glen.

As the destination management organisation for the area, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to play an active part in the West Coast Waters project.

To help businesses maximise the opportunities on offer through the Year of Coasts and Waters, the West Coast Waters team, supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, is



hosting a series of workshops up and down the west coast to raise awareness.

West Coast Waters will present its exciting plans to help businesses to get involved at an information session running from 10am-4.30pm on Monday March 23, at the Nevis Centre.

This event is timed to run alongside the Outdoor Capital of the UK Activities and Attractions Expo, giving attendees the chance to enhance their knowledge of West Coast Waters as well as explore the expo. The West Coast Waters all-day information session is open to anyone interested in the opportunities it can bring to you, your business and your area in 2020 and beyond.

Come along to find out more about how you can take part and benefit from West Coast Waters at the Nevis Centre on Monday March 23. See [www.westcoastwaters.co.uk](http://www.westcoastwaters.co.uk) or [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for more information.

## Oban FISH & CHIP SHOP

### NEW SEASON MENU

Bring your own wine

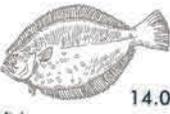
OPEN ALL DAY  
FROM 12PM



AWARD WINNING CHIPPY

Good Food Awards – Best Takeaway 2016

116 George St, Oban  
01631 567000  
[obanfishandchipshop.co.uk](http://obanfishandchipshop.co.uk)

STARTERS AND SHARERS	FISHY MAINS	POPULAR MAINS				
<b>WEST COAST KING SCALLOPS ROASTED IN HALF SHELL</b> GF Vermouth, garlic and seaweed butter.  <table border="0"> <tr><td>small</td><td>9.00</td></tr> <tr><td>large</td><td>17.00</td></tr> </table>	small	9.00	large	17.00	<b>SOUTH INDIAN GOD CURRY</b> GF  14.00 Burst of spices that enhance the fish. Served with plain basmati rice and yoghurt pot.	<b>OUR OWN STEAK AND ALE PIE</b> 12.20 Slow braised shoulder steak supplied by 'Grants of Taynuilt'. Served with side of vegetables, creamy mash or chips.
small	9.00					
large	17.00					
<b>CRISP FRIED BATTERED SALT AND PEPPER SQUID</b> With a Singapore chilli sauce.  <table border="0"> <tr><td>small</td><td>7.50</td></tr> <tr><td>large</td><td>14.50</td></tr> </table>	small	7.50	large	14.50	<b>POTATO TOPPED CREAMY FISH PIE</b> 13.70 Local salmon, North Atlantic prawns, cod and smoked haddock. Served with garden peas and crusty bread.	<b>OUR OWN OVEN-BAKED LASAGNE</b> 10.80 Made in the traditional way with minced beef supplied by Grants of Taynuilt. Served with garlic bread or fresh cut chips.
small	7.50					
large	14.50					
<b>OBAN BAY CHOWDER</b> 6.80 A light creamy style chowder with chunky pieces of local smoked haddock and cod. 	<b>PAN FRIED SALMON FILLET WITH HERB BUTTER</b> GF 14.50 From South Shian (near Benderloch). Served with creamy mash and today's vegetables.	<b>ROAST CHICKEN BREAST</b> GF (CHIP SHOP STYLE) 9.70 Deep fried, crispy skin chicken. Served with chip shop gravy and fresh cut chips.				
<b>LANGOUSTINE, TOMATO AND AVOCADO COCKTAIL</b> GF 8.00 Topped with our own brandy laced marie-rose sauce. 	<b>PAN FRIED HAKE, CHORIZO AND BEAN STEW</b> GF 14.60 Served with creamy mash potato.	<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED OR STEAMED HAGGIS</b> 8.90 Our haggis comes from Jackson Butchers of Oban. Served with fresh cut chips or creamy mash.				
<b>BUCKET OF WEST COAST GRAB CLAWS</b> GF 7.50 Served with wasabi mayo.  <table border="0"> <tr><td>small</td><td>7.50</td></tr> <tr><td>large</td><td>14.50</td></tr> </table>	small	7.50	large	14.50	<b>ROAST SEA BASS FILLETS WITH CAESAR SALAD</b> 14.90 Served with garlic bread or side of chips.	<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED BLACK OR WHITE PUDDING</b> 8.90 Our puddings come from 'Grant's of Taynuilt'. Served with fresh cut chips or creamy mash.
small	7.50					
large	14.50					
<b>TRIO OF SCAMPI</b> 14.70 Breaded monkfish, wholetail, salmon belly. Served with house salad and fresh cut chips.		<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED STORNOWAY BLACK PUDDING</b> 9.00 Champion of Scottish black puddings and produced only on the Hebridean Island of Lewis. Served with fresh cut chips.				
<b>full menu available on our website</b> <a href="http://obanfishandchipshop.co.uk">obanfishandchipshop.co.uk</a>		<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED PORK SAUSAGE (2) (CHIP SHOP STYLE)</b> 8.20 Served with fresh cut chips.				
<b>OBAN FISH &amp; CHIP SHOP RECOMMENDATION</b>		<b>SCOTCH PIE</b> 8.20 Chip shop style. Served with fresh cut chips.				
<b>FISH TEA SPECIAL 12.00</b> Thick fillet of haddock served with our own mushy peas, tartare sauce and fresh cut chips. (Tea, bread and butter all inclusive of price).		<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED SMOKED PORK SAUSAGE (CHIP SHOP STYLE)</b> 8.30 Served with fresh cut chips.				
<b>TRADITIONAL FISH 'N' CHIPS</b> Our haddock and cod is sourced from Norway where stocks are really healthy and certified sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. Lightly battered, baked or breadcrumb and served with fresh cut chips. All of our fried fish and chips are cooked in Rapeseed oil.		<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED PRIME HADDOCK FILLET AND CHIPS</b> 9.50 regular 9.50 large 13.20				
<b>LIGHTLY BATTERED PRIME COD FILLET AND CHIPS</b> 10.00 regular 10.00 large 13.50		<b>LOCAL FISH SELECTION AND CHIPS</b> Hake 13.00 Sole 12.50 Sea Bass 13.50				

# Spooktacular mystery of paranormal night at castle

by Nic Goddard  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A foggy, yet eerily bright moonlit night; a group of people including the believers, the skeptics and the open-minded; a plethora of technical kit and the ruins of a castle with a 700-year history of bloody battles and many reported sightings of ghosts made for a pretty interesting Monday evening.

Inverlochy castle ruins in Fort William has several local legends of shadowy figures and apparitions, reports of hearing footsteps when no one is there and paranormal presences felt by those who tune in to such feelings.

The Hove-based Findings Hauntings is a team of paranormal investigators and ghost hunters on a quest to



seek out spirits, get to know ghosts, drive out demons and appraise the apparitions.

Set up nearly 10 years ago by school friends Rob Murphy-Smith and Lisa Walker, who

shared a passion for all things paranormal, the team includes Rob's husband Richard Murphy-Smith, a 'demonologist', and David Walsh, who is in charge of video and

audio and as 'team skeptic' is always on the look-out for non-spooky explanations to the experiences of the group.

Rob and Lisa explained in advance of the event more about Findings Hauntings and what to expect on the ghost hunting evening.

Rob explained: 'I've always been interested in the paranormal and became a qualified ghost hunter and investigator after years of visiting haunted locations including private homes, castles, prisons and woodlands.'

Lisa added: 'My first experience was back when I was just nine years old and a whole shelf of ornaments turned the wrong way while I was in the room. I was a bit scared but mostly just fascinated and wanted to learn more.'

Both are keen followers of TV shows such as Most Haunted and are keen to give other interested people the chance to become ghost hunters too by joining the team on ghost hunts and explaining how to use their high-tech kit.

Rob explained a bit about the sort of equipment the team brings with it. 'We have voice

**The budding ghost hunters join the professionals at Inverlochy Castle ruins on Monday night.**

Photograph: Ady Goddard.

recorders, motion sensors, infra-red thermometers to measure temperature changes, night-vision cameras and electro-magnetic field (EMF) detectors.'

'We sometimes also use an ouija board but often just being receptive to feeling spirits is enough,' added Lisa, explaining about a recent experience where she was drained of energy and became suddenly and unexpectedly sick during a ghost hunt.

Everyone gathered on Monday evening by torchlight in the castle ruins.

**'Our children have communicated with the spirit of a woman'**

Unfortunately, it was a wet evening with several heavy downpours of rain, but it didn't seem to dampen spirits.

The main paranormal action was in three tower spaces in the corners of the castle. One was set up with the team's motion sensor detector which set off an alarm at various points during the evening and had distinct pockets of cold air present.

The second tower has a semi-intact stairway closed off behind a boarded up area where several of the group heard marching footsteps.

It was in the third tower ruins where the most paranormal action was experienced, though, with the hand-held EMF detectors showing

almost constant action and very clear interaction with the questions of the group.

As well as lighting up the detectors, all 10 experienced a strong smell of burning as the spirit of a woman called Agnes said she had connections with someone tried as a witch.

Fellow attendees Hayley and Trevor Stevens had a particular connection with the activity detected and felt that Trevor's late father was also present.

Trevor said that although this was their first time ghost hunting they had been to seance events previously and connected with Trevor's father through a medium.

Hayley said: 'We definitely believe. We only moved up to this area last year and our children have communicated with the spirit of a woman in our new house. We've been to these castle ruins before in daytime but didn't feel anything here before.'

After four hours of activity, torch batteries were dimming so demonologist Richard said a prayer and investigation leader Lisa thanked the spirits for communicating with everyone and expressed everyone's wishes for them to rest in peace.

The EMFs stopped detecting energy and the ghost hunting adventures were over – for now. It had been an exciting evening and for the Findings Hauntings team of experts the real work of going back through all their footage and recordings of the evening was all still ahead, as gathering the evidence is just the start of their investigation.

Everyone else – a slightly soggy group of nine amateurs aged from 18-60 years – all said goodbye and left in high spirits.



Professional spectre chasers, from left, Lisa Walker, Rob Murphy-Smith, David Walsh and Richard Murphy-Smith.

 Pension  
wise

 80  
citizens  
advice  
bureau  
years of advice

**Get to know your pension options**

**If you are 50 or over with a personal or workplace (defined contribution) pension, you can get free, impartial guidance to help you understand how to take your money.**

A Pension Wise appointment is a conversation between you and a pension specialist. You'll talk about the options you have for taking your pension money. Your appointment will last around 45 to 60 minutes and we will explain your pension options and how each option is taxed, and give you next steps to take.

You can speak to us over the phone or face to face in your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Our guidance is impartial – we won't recommend any products or companies and won't tell you how to invest your money.

Call 0800 138 3944 to book your phone or face-to-face appointment, or go to [pensionwise.gov.uk](https://www.pensionwise.gov.uk) for more information.

# Inverlochy chef owes his success to apprenticeship

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A budding chef at a leading Highland hotel has attributed his success to the Modern Apprenticeship he undertook once he left school.

Martin Goldie has excelled in his development as a pastry chef at Inverlochy Castle, thanks in part to the support he received from SDConsultancy which helps many in hospitality get training through Modern Apprenticeships.

Sarah Dalrymple worked closely with Martin at the outset of his career and ahead of him taking up the apprenticeship.

She said: 'Martin took up his first position at Crossbasket Castle near Hamilton, straight after leaving school, but he showed such promise in those early days that his



head chef at the time asked us to go in and work with him on a first round of qualifications.

'Together, we selected the Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Professional Cookery (Patisserie and Confectionery), as he has a natural flair for chocolate

work. His journey since then has really been quite remarkable.'

Learning from world-class chefs, Martin was able to develop his knowledge and skills hugely with his first SVQ, and moving on to the Chez Roux group at Cromlix

House Hotel near Dunblane, he started another in hospitality management.

Sarah continued: 'Without doing the two SQA courses, he might have been able to develop some of the same skills, but he certainly would not have been able to demon-

**Taking advantage of a Modern Apprenticeship means Martin Goldie has secured a job in the Inverlochy Castle Hotel with tailored training and qualifications.** Photograph: SQA

strate what he has been able to achieve to the same extent as he can now.'

Investing in apprentices means businesses like Inverlochy Castle take on the responsibility of training their own staff and are able to tailor their development to fit specific needs with courses and qualifications from the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA).

Brian Grigor, executive chef consultant at Chez Roux Scotland, said: 'It has been a real pleasure to see how Martin has progressed within the Chez Roux Group. 'His desire to learn the

craft of becoming a talented pastry chef is down to hard work, determination and an appetite for learning.'

Martin has a piece of advice for anyone considering a Modern Apprenticeship. He said: 'Do it. Hospitality can be a hard industry to come into, but the benefits the Modern Apprenticeship has given me, and the boost to my confidence, has been fantastic. It's allowed me to develop the skills and knowledge that I have needed to help me move from successful property to property and be recognised by my peers for my talents - I've got something to show for what I've done.'

For information on SQA, the qualifications it offers, and how it support Modern Apprenticeships, Foundation Apprenticeships, and Graduate Apprenticeships, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/Apprenticeships](http://www.sqa.org.uk/Apprenticeships).

  
**KILGRASTON**  
SCHOOL  
JUNIOR YEARS · SENIOR · SIXTH FORM

# Experience boarding at Kilgraston

**Book onto our Sixth Form boarding taster.**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

For more info contact: 01738 812 257  
or [admissions@kilgraston.com](mailto:admissions@kilgraston.com)

**Superb 2019 exam results**

- 60 % achieved an A grade at both Higher and Advanced Higher
- Over 63% go on to study STEM subjects at university



LT

## Council ward by-election

Voting for the Eilean a' Cheò Ward (Skye) Highland Council by-election gets under way today (Thursday March 12) with polling stations opening at 7am until 10pm.

Anyone who has applied for a postal vote and may not yet have posted their ballot paper is reminded that they can hand it in to any of the polling stations up until 10pm today.

The polling stations are located at:

Kilmuir Primary School, Uig Village Hall, Staffin Primary School, Edinbane Community Hall, Skeabost Memorial Hall, Waternish Hall,

Dunvegan Primary School, Glendale Hall, Struan Primary School, Carbost Primary School, Tigh na Sgire, Park Road, Portree (2)

Raasay Community Hall, Braes Village Hall, Isle of Skye Golf Club clubhouse, Broadford Village Hall, Elgol Village Hall, Kyleakin Community Hall, An Crubh, Sleat, Tarskavaig Communities Hall,2

Ardvasar Hall. The count will take place tomorrow (Friday March 13) and the results will be published on the council's

website [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk). The stages of the count will be promoted on Highland Council's Twitter and Facebook @HighlandCouncil.

The six candidates standing are:

Andrew Jonathan Kiss – Scottish National Party, Dawn Kroonstuiver Campbell – Scottish Green Party, Màrtainn Misneachd, Calum Munro – Independent, Ruraidh Cameron Stewart – Scottish Conservative and Unionist

Fay Thomson – Scottish Liberal Democrats.

## Free sanitary products at public buildings

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is now making free sanitary products available throughout public buildings in the Western Isles.

Access to free sanitary products has been in place in schools across the Western Isles since August 2018, and this initiative will now include public buildings.

The products, including tampons and pads, are made available in bags on the coat hooks within cubicles and individuals are invited to take as much or as little as they need.

This initiative is sponsored by the Scottish Government, COSLA and Young Scot. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has identified 12 sites throughout

the Western Isles where products are available: Stornoway – council offices, sports centre, town hall, library and museum; Ness – swimming pool; Shawbost: swimming pool; Harris – council offices; Uist – Balivanich council offices, Lionacleit community toilets; Barra – council offices, Castlebay Community School.

## Forbes meets with Co-op management over Skye fresh produce concerns

The constituency MSP for Skye recently met with senior management at the Co-Op to discuss concerns about the lack of available fresh produce in its biggest Portree store.

With the continued surge in visitor numbers to the island, some constituents told Kate Forbes that there were notable times in the year where they particularly struggled to get any fresh produce in the fruit and veg and bakery aisles.

Ms Forbes was in Portree recently and met Daniel Simpson, regional operations manager for the Co-Op, at its Woodpark Road store.

Mr Simpson said the supermarket chain was continually looking at how it could improve its service to customers on Skye.



Ms Forbes said: 'In light of local comments, I had a meeting with the Co-op in Portree.

'I met with senior and local managers to discuss how the store responds to the requirements of the local community.

'I recognise that, particularly at the height of summer, the shelves can get bare very quickly and there also have been questions about lack of competition on the island.

'I raised all these issues, and more, and I'm delighted that managers at the Co-op are willing to consider how to continue serving the local community as well as possible.

'They explicitly asked that anybody with thoughts or comments get in touch directly with them and they will do what they can to respond.'

## Tribute paid to former councillor

Tribute has been paid to former Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Councillor, Archie Campbell, who passed away aged 76 on Friday March 6.

Elected to represent the Paible electoral ward in 1999, Archie was chairman of the development committee and served the North Uist and Benbecula ward until 2015.

Convener of the comhairle Norman A Macdonald said:

'Archie was a tremendous voice for his community, serving in distinguished roles on the comhairle, most notably as chairman of development. He was a robust campaigner for both his community and the islands, and was also a director of Hebridean Housing Partnership.

'On a personal level, Archie was a gentleman who was revered by his colleagues and friends.

'Our thoughts are with Archie's wife, Ada, their children Eilidh, Sarah and Alasdair, and his many friends.'

## Health chiefs' assurance over Broadford Hospital access

Concerns over disabled access and accessibility at the new Broadford Hospital on Skye, raised by Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant, have elicited an assurance from NHS Highland that these will be fully investigated.

In a meeting with project managers and Highland Council building standards recently, Mrs Grant secured NHS Highland's commitment to fully investigate the issues raised.

The Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel fears the



Rhoda Grant MSP.

building will only meet the minimum standards in terms

of disability access and accessibility, and the group is concerned no inpatient en-suite facilities are being designed specifically for independent wheelchair users.

Mrs Grant commented: 'It was good to hear that NHS Highland will now employ the services of an independent access auditor from the National Register of Access Consultants to carry out an audit of the new hospital plans. I have asked that immediate steps are taken to set this up and I look forward to receiving an update soon.'

## Major sporting challenge for Lewis

A new super challenge is due to take place on Lewis this summer organised by The Leanne Fund to mark 10 years of service to support people with cystic fibrosis.

The Tiumpan 20/20 challenge is a 40k duathlon race from Lews Castle in Stornoway to Tiumpan Head, at Point, and will take place on Saturday August 15.

The 20k run and 20k cycle

is a single or team event and will take participants through Stornoway, all the way to Tiumpan Head lighthouse where runners will transition to their bike and cycle back to Lews Castle.

Chrisetta Mitchell, development manager of The Leanne Fund, said: 'The Tiumpan 20/20 challenge is a new and exciting event for us and we hope to see lots of sign-ups.'

Prizes include one for the participant or team member who raises the most in sponsorship. That individual will win two Loganair return flights.

Ms Mitchell added: 'We are really grateful to Loganair for its generous donation which we hope will inspire competitors to raise even more for individuals affected by cystic fibrosis.'



**THE OLD CLUBHOUSE**

**WINTER OPENING HOURS**

**2020**

**January / February / March**

**CLOSED - Mon/Tues/Wed**

**OPEN - Thurs - Sun**

**From 11.00am for tea and coffee**

**12.00pm to 9.00pm for hot food**

**Bar open until midnight**



# Lewis shieling memories to be preserved by project

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A project is under way to capture the history of the shielings in one area of Lewis before they pass out of living memory.

The main part of the project, backed by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust, will involve interviews with people who remember going to the shielings (the 'airidhean') belonging to families from the Point and Sandwick area, and collecting old photographs.

The researched material will form the basis of an exhibition by Comann Eachdraidh an Rubha and will also be turned into a booklet or book, depending on how much material is gathered.

The year-long project aims to create a site map of all the shielings that existed on Point



Calum Graham near his family's old airidh, with the Point and Sandwick Trust turbines at Beinn Ghrideag in the background. Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos

and Sandwick's summer grazings on the 'Stornoway General', off the Pentland and Beinn a Bhuna roads, and identify their ownership.

Writer and translator Andrew Dunn, from Point, will be carrying out the

research and producing the written material, which will be bilingual.

He explained: 'The idea is that it involves a lot of research. Initially, it will be looking at written material but also doing interviews

with people who have first-hand experience, so time is a factor.'

Mr Dunn is hoping to speak to as many people as possible with memories of the shielings.

'This could be at any sort of

stage. I'm interested in older people who would have had the experience of travelling out to the summer grazings as part of the actual routine of life but also people who went there just for holidays because I know people who did that.

'Any experience at all,' he added.

Mr Dunn will be taking an audio recording of the memories and collecting photographs at the same time. Copies will be made of all photos so that originals can be returned.

He explained: 'If people have knowledge of whose shieling was whose, we're interested in hearing that as well, because part of the project will be doing a map of the shielings and showing which shieling corresponded to which croft or family.'

He said it was important

to hear these accounts first-hand. 'It is a very important part of the community history and it's a way of life that disappeared but people still remember it and it's a way of life that was common, not just in the islands and Highlands as well, but throughout Europe at one point. But it lasted longer in the Highlands and islands than it did elsewhere.'

Garrabost native Calum Graham is among those with fond memories of the airidh.

His first summer at the shieling was in 1947 at the age of five – and he is delighted memories of shieling life are going to be preserved.

'I think it's wonderful. I think it's a very important and rich part of our history and culture and I think in Lewis it persisted long after it ceased elsewhere,' he commented.

## NOW RECRUITING FAST TRACK YOUR LOCHABER BUSINESS WITH PATHFINDER ACCELERATOR

WE ARE SEEKING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH BIG IDEAS  
AND A FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND HEALTH.

Pathfinder Accelerator provides a challenging environment  
for you to grow your business.

- Weekly sessions plus extended support from business coaches
- Pressure test your ideas and develop your business skills
- Make valuable connections

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 29 MARCH 2020

Next cohort taking place in Fort William in spring/summer 2020.

JOIN OUR TASTER SESSION

18 MARCH 2020 IN FORT WILLIAM

Meet our coaches and find out more about the support available:

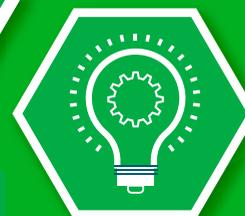
[hie.co.uk/pathfinder-Fort-William](http://hie.co.uk/pathfinder-Fort-William)

To find out more or request an application form email [pathfinder@hient.co.uk](mailto:pathfinder@hient.co.uk) or visit [hie.co.uk/pathfinder](http://hie.co.uk/pathfinder)



“The skillset required to pitch a product was not our forte but we've been given the tools and the confidence to showcase our offering.”

Jenny Johnstone, Cawdor Forestry



LT

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Fasting for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert while being tempted by the devil in disguise is not easy to emulate but as one of the many Christian traditions that has spread widely into secular and everyday life, the keeping of Lent in some way, is good for the mind and body. It is good to exercise our control over the natural desire for instant gratification, but observing this in a specific way during a specified period that is widely recognised, makes it easier to focus the mind on such self-denial or penance.

For a number of times over the years I've stopped drinking alcohol for this period. I know many people who abstain totally from alcohol and in many ways I think they have the right idea. There is no doubt that drinking alcohol is bad for our health, it costs a fortune, it loses us many days of productive work and its knock-on effects are very expensive and damaging for society generally. However, for the time being my enjoyment of a good dram and also of the type of human interaction that can go

with it continues to out-weigh the far more sensible option of long-term self-prohibition. Stopping for Lent is a good exercise and reminder that the choice can always be made, so again this year as they say in Glasgow, 'A'm aff it!'

Coupled with staying off the deoch, I also decided to run five kilometres every day over the period. I'm keeping the time-frame simple and doing every day – no Sundays off – from Ash Wednesday, which was February 26, till Easter Sunday on April 12. The 46 days will amount to a total of 230 kilometres. This small endeavour combines three strands that all bind together to create the motivation to see it through. Firstly, it's a good practice in self-discipline, secondly, it is good for long-term health and fitness, and thirdly and most importantly it gives me a chance for doing some fundraising for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust.

Since Eilidh's Trust was set up, we've done something each year to join them and assist with fundraising. Because of the timing of gigs

this year, the Edinburgh and Manchester running events they take part in are not going to be possible for me to join, so the 5k a day seemed a reasonable alternative to raise some money for them through sponsorship. My wife Ania and Etrust founders Iagan MacNeil and Suzanne White are also joining me in the 5k a day challenge.

All who are involved in the trust put a huge amount of effort into keeping it going and over time it can be difficult to maintain the energy and support of others when so many people have already given generously. They've achieved much in raising the funds to erect a permanent memorial to Eilidh on Barra and are now doing wonderful work to encourage and support young musicians who will take Eilidh's memory long into the future through the music of generations to come. They need and deserve as much continued support as possible.

If you would like to sponsor me, you can do so through a link on the Skipinnish website or my own Facebook page.

## Canna 'Solas' even

by Kirsteen Bell  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Canna House launched its 'Solas' Event Programme this week with a call for papers for the 2020 Solas Sea Symposium, seeking proposals from all walks of life connected with coasts and islands.

The week-long summer programme also includes the CannaNotCannes Film Festival and was inspired by the successful production of the 'Solas' film, based on the life of folklorist and photographer Margaret Fay Shaw. The events will celebrate the breadth and diversity of her work and that of her husband John Lorne Campbell.

Margaret and John were both fascinated by folklore and ancient culture and language, especially Gaelic. Canna House, now managed by the National Trust for Scotland, was their home from the 1930s to



the 1990s and contains an extensive library and archive of their life's work.

The programme of events

has been created by archivist Fiona McKenzie, who wanted the symposium to have a more creative focus.

## TAX YEAR-END PLANNING

# USE IT OR LOSE IT



Each tax year presents an opportunity to utilise allowances and exemptions that would otherwise be lost after 5 April.

By joining together your goals and our expertise, we can help you reach future financial security.

## ARGYLL WEALTH CONSULTANTS LTD

Partner Practice of St. James's Place Wealth Management

Tel: 01631 707010 | 07793 810749  
Email: russell.anderson@sjpp.co.uk  
www.sjpp.co.uk/argyll



ST. JAMES'S PLACE  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are dependent on individual circumstances.

The Partner Practice is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website [www.sjpp.co.uk/products](http://www.sjpp.co.uk/products).  
The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

# nt appeals for islands inspiration



Left, Margaret and her favourite Graflex camera; above, Bean Ruaidh with pony on South Uist; and right, Margaret Fay Shaw and her husband John Lorne Campbell.



When asked how she thought Margaret Fay Shaw and John Lorne Campbell's outlook was affected by island life, Ms McKenzie said: 'It was their being, their entire foci. The reason they had Canna was because John wanted to help re-establish a traditional crofting community. Canna's history, its

population, language, and linguistic links were the reasons he bought the island. 'People forget the land side of John, they tend to think of him as an academic, but he was a farmer, too, and that's not often recognised. His work improving Canna and with the Sea League, fighting for the rights of the Minch

fishermen, were hugely important to him.

'For Margaret, the landscape of Canna gave her the opportunity to capture a way of life in a way that hadn't been done before, the same with her photos of life on Uist.

'Her photos of the peo-

ple and animals in their day-to-day environment are full of warmth and naturalness. She captured the hardship in their faces because she had wet feet too - she didn't just visit for a couple of months, this young lassie from Pittsburgh gave up the comforts of that life to

live in a croft house with no electricity, milking cows and everything that went with it - thinking about why she did that is fascinating. The land and sea are at the heart of both Margaret and John's lives.'

Ms McKenzie will also be leading a Cuairt Cladaich, Shoreline Walk, where participants will explore the shoreline of Canna Bay, sharing songs and poems that connect with the landscape.

She added: 'We're extremely fortunate with the wealth of resources we have in Canna House today to use as inspiration for projects both creative and academic, and to bring new audiences to the wonderful collections in the National Trust for Scotland.'

'With the advent of the Year of Coasts and Waters, I decided to develop a programme of events which will provide something for everyone, all themed

around enlightenment and the sea.

'The programme will give us a chance to explore exactly what inspired John and Margaret Campbell to capture and display the world around them in the Hebrides, over the course of their long lives.'

Speaking on the call for papers she explained: 'We've given a wide theme as we wanted it to be as open as possible to allow people to interpret as they wanted. It doesn't have to have an academic focus; we'd just like to hear what people think about their environment and how it affects them as a person.'

'You could be a writer, or a singer, or perhaps someone who travels to the islands as part of your work. I'm really excited to see what people come up with!'

For more information, or to submit a proposal, email Fiona MacKenzie at [fmackenzie@nts.org.uk](mailto:fmackenzie@nts.org.uk)



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an

## OPEN DAYS

@WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI  
FORT WILLIAM

FRI 20 & SAT 21 MARCH  
11-3pm

WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT  
OUR MANY COURSES IN ADVENTURE STUDIES,  
CREATIVE ARTS, COMPUTING, HOSPITALITY,  
CHILD/SOCIAL CARE, BUSINESS, MARITIME,  
CONSTRUCTION AND RURAL SKILLS - PLUS HNC/HND/  
DEGREES THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS.

[www.whc.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.whc.uhi.ac.uk)

01397 874000

LT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Medicines waste campaign is to be highly commended

In a time of prolonged austerity such as we have been forced to endure for many years now, it would seem self-evident that anything which can be done to reduce financial waste should be embraced.

However, as we report this week, pharmacies and GP practices across Lochaber are teaming up in a campaign to reduce medicines wastage.

According to Fort William GP Dr Finlay Wild, waste of medicines in Scotland costs the NHS an estimated £20 million. That is a shocking waste of money for an already hard-pressed health service.

As Dr Wild points out, not only is the money being wasted, but the surplus medicines are damaging to the environment, another shocking factor in these days of far heightened awareness of the climate crisis.

All of us have a role to play in reducing such profligacy, and many of the actions advocated by Dr Wild are common sense. The new campaign is to be commended and we should all embrace it.

## Economic boost for distillery is welcome

There is a very positive development reported this week in the £1.7 million investment in the Nc'nean Distillery on Morvern.

The young company has established itself as a producer of quality products and the new investment will aid its plans for expansion, including the creation of new jobs.

Kerry Sharp, director of the Scottish Investment Bank, said: 'We are excited to see how Nc'nean flourishes in the future and look forward to the release of its first whisky later this year.'

We would echo that sentiment.

## We should avoid farmed fish products to help marine life

Your report (The Oban Times, February 27) is headlined: Objectors up in arms over fish farm plan.

Of course we are opposed to SEPA's intentions to greenlight bigger fish farms in our inshore waters.

The sandy beach at Ganavan is already under plenty of pressure. We really do not need even bigger salmon-farming pens at the Dunstaffnage site in the mouth of Ardmucknish Bay – or anywhere else.

This was the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's first recommendation in its Report on Salmon Farming in Scotland, published in November 2018: 'If the [salmon farming] industry is to grow, the committee considers it to be essential that [the industry] addresses and identifies solutions to the environmental and fish health challenges it faces as a priority.'

I acknowledge some improvements. However, nearly 15 months after the report was published, we are facing the planet's biggest man-made environmental and humanitarian crisis. And still the loyalties of our politicians seem to lie with big corporations, whose interests have for far too long been focused on the interests of greedy shareholders. Politicians and multinational corporations continue to show a lack of care and concern for our environment that verges on the criminal.

In view of the many and well-documented worldwide risks that fish and crustacean farming pose to wild fish and crustaceans, and to inshore waters, we would do well to avoid all farmed fish products, including salmon.

Margret Powell-Joss, Oban.

## Correcting curious economic arguments on independence

I am responding to Jeff Darby of Kilmore's letter (February 27) with its somewhat unusual grasp of economics.

First, contrary to his comments, Scotland runs and continues to run a substantially higher fiscal deficit than the rest of the UK. In the fiscal year 2016-17, it was of the order of 8.3 per cent of GDP (Scottish Government figures quoted in their own Growth Commission paper chaired by Andrew Wilson). The UK fiscal deficit was of the order of two per cent in this period.

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to showcase these each week.

If you have a photograph you would like published, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor,

PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph comes from Danny Owen who said: 'I was visiting

The gap is crudely filled by the Barnett formula. It is therefore simply not true to say that Scotland subsidises England. There is nothing either peculiar or sinister about the Barnett formula; it is a social solidarity payment to areas of higher need which results in redistributive levels of public expenditure vis a vis tax revenues from richer to poorer areas.

Mr Darby correctly points out that Scotland is one of the richest areas of the UK, a tribute one might think to the redistributionist effect over time of Barnett enhanced public expenditure and a sign perhaps that Scotland is hardly discriminated against in UK terms.

So why, then, do we need enhanced levels of public expenditure vis a vis the UK? The an-



# Inspiration starts here

THE  
BATHROOM  
SHOWROOM

7e Glengallan Road, Oban  
Tel: 01631 567640

CITY  
PLUMBING  
SUPPLIES

NOW Open Saturdays 8am - 12noon  
[the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk](http://the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk)

# DISTRICT NEWS

## SUNART

### Benefit fund is open for applications

Operating since 2016, the Sunart Community Benefit Fund has made single awards of almost £7,000 to projects in the area.

It is open for applications again, and will be closing on Monday March 23, for grants of between £500 and £5,000 and large grants of more than that amount require a two-stage application.

The fund uses profits from the hydro scheme run by Sunart Community Renewables (SCR) which means the amount available to distribute is often dependent on rainfall.

From time to time, the fund also receives donations from third party organisations and donors.

The panel of 13 Sunart residents meets no more than four times per year to distribute money to projects. The panel is made up of a representative group spanning a wide age range.

A statement on what outcomes the panel are looking for from the fund states: 'The fund will support positive change by investing in a wide range of inspirational, community-led activity that is strategic, positive and creative and helps create a legacy of lasting impact. The fund will do this by making grants to support the costs of relevant projects, services and facilities.'

There are four Areas for Action that the fund seeks to progress: health and wellbeing; learning and working; access and transport; and housing and infrastructure.

The fund has contributed to projects such as repairing the Sunart church roof, festivals and supporting trips and projects for the primary and high school.

Application forms and guidance can be found on the Sunart Community Company website along with extensive information on the fund's history and previous awards.

## Enjoying the fruits of their labours



Pupils from Arisaig Primary School, along with their teachers, braved the elements last week and got stuck into a session of digging, wheel barrowing horse manure and planting plenty of apple, pear and plum trees. A week earlier, the volunteers from Arisaig Eco Project and Mallaig Youth Forum had also cleared bracken and brambles from the site in preparation for the planting of a dozen assorted fruit trees by the youngsters. Becky Dacre from Shielfoot Organics at Acharacle was also involved with the event, which has been hailed as a great success. Photographs: Arisaig Eco Project

## PLOCKTON AND LOCHALSH

■ Singing group Gness played Plockton Hall last month with support from Plockton Music School.

■ Visiting minister was Rev Alick Stewart from Plockton, recently inducted as minister in Lennoxton.

■ Recent deaths in Lochalsh included Anne Mackenzie, Kyle; Lena Maclennan, Plockton and

Clive Hendry, Dornie. Sympathy is expressed to grieving relatives.

■ The South-West Ross District Scottish Community Drama One-Act Festival was held at Plockton High School (PHS) on February 22. Plockton won stage presentation and best comedy moment, but Lochcarron was placed first, two

points ahead of Plockton, with its play Give a Little Love, by Alan Stockdill. Producer was Rita Sykes and stage manager was John Robinson. Adjudicator was Alasdair Hawthorn, stage manager was Alex Townend. Lochcarron now goes forward to the area finals in Thurso.

■ On March 2 the youth festival of

Scottish community drama was held at PHS. Only two plays were entered - one junior, one senior, both by Plockton Amateur Dramatic Youth Society and both produced by Sarah Bruce and Jeanette Taylor. Stage manager was Brian Harvey, with adjudicator Brian Marjoribanks. Both were unplaced.

## Cosy Cottage Pie



1kg floury potatoes  
peeled and  
chopped



2 leeks thinly sliced



450ml  
boiling  
beef  
stock



500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)



750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack

On a cold night, this satisfying FREE beefy pie topped with leek and potato mash is just what the doctor ordered! Serves 4, ready in 45 minutes, Syn FREE!



**Method:** Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste.

Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

**OBAN**  
Glencruitten Church Hall,  
Glencruitten Road  
Wednesday 9.30am, 11.30am,  
5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

**FORT WILLIAM**  
Salvation Army Hall, Belford Rd  
Mondays 9.30am & 11.30am  
Thursdays 3pm, 5pm & 7pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

**LOCHGILPHEAD**  
Lochgilphead Baptist Church,  
Union Street/ Argyll Street  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

**CAMPBELTOWN**  
Masonic Recreational Lodge,  
St John Street  
Tuesdays 11am NEW SESSION,  
1pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

**Slimming**  
WORLD

touching hearts, changing lives

**NEW  
SESSION  
CAMPBELTOWN  
TUESDAYS 11AM**

Detailed recipes available at:

[slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)   

Send us your district news by emailing  
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000



## Inverlochry has fun on World Book Day

Pupils at Inverlochry Primary School celebrated World Book Day with some dressing up fun and recording a radio show with the team at Nevis Radio.

Book reviews and sections of books read by pupils of all ages were interspersed with interviews of writers of different backgrounds: editor of Lochaber Life, Iain Ferguson; author and illustrator, Lucy Joy; and author of the Invisible Fiends series, Barry Hutchison.

Mr Hutchison had some advice for aspiring young writers. He said: 'Write lots, read as much as you can, read books you don't think you like as well from all different types of genres. Write short stories, poems, comics. The more you write, the better you get.'

'They say write things you know, I don't think that would necessarily be true, write about things that excite you. If you write about things you are excited about, you will learn about everything you need to know. When you come to write it, all that excitement comes onto the page and people who read that pick up on it as well.'

All pupils were invited to dress up as their favourite literary characters which made for many wonderful costumes.



In 2019, The Highland Bookshop in Fort William decided to take World Book Day to some of the most remote schools in Britain, giving them access to the 12 brilliant titles by top authors published each year especially for this nationally celebrated day.

This year staff have gone even further by doubling both the number of books distributed and the schools involved. Sixteen primary schools across Rum, Muck, Eigg, Lewis, Mull, South Uist, North Uist, Benbecula, Ulva and Skye received more than 700 books last week..

'We, and other booksellers, want to help foster a love of reading,' said Sarah-Louise Bamblett, manager of The Highland Bookshop. 'World Book Day gives us an excellent opportunity to work with schools and guarantee that we can get books into the hands of as many children as possible.'

## Around Lochaber

ANGUS MACDONALD

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Introducing Lochaber businessman Angus MacDonald, who is providing occasional columns to the Lochaber Times

### Business rates are killing our High Street

Fort William High Street is a handsome thoroughfare. As someone said to me last week: 'It's got good bones.'

For six months a year, it is bustling, especially when the sun is out. We are lucky to have our excellent volunteer Town Team, as the street is litter free and the cobbling and heritage street lights are attractive.

But come the dark winter months, its flaws look all too obvious, like a row of rotting teeth. An appalling 36 per cent - that's 28 properties of the premises of the Fort William High Street - are charity shops or vacant.

It is not just that the facades look awful, but rain is pouring through some of the roofs, and it is quite possible that a few of them cannot be saved now.

Okay, we are not alone but comparable towns are doing far better. Oban's main shopping road, George Street, has 18 per cent of its retail outlets empty or about to open, or charity shops; Lochgilhead has 23 per cent; and Pitlochry has nine per cent. The UK average is 12 per cent.

Winner of the British High Street Awards recently was the Rhondda mining town of Treorchy in Wales, with about 100 shops most of which are independent, and only two are vacant. A tea room is called Hot Gossip and the chippy is named A Fish called Rhondda. With an enormous 440,000 tourists a year in Fort William, surely we can do as well as Treorchy.

So what can we do to get our town thriving again? We need to have a



crisis meeting with our MSP, top guys from Highland Council and others. We need to get Highland Council to focus on what must be done and, if necessary, get some laws changed to allow improvement.

How come the council cannot act when the shops on either side of one of these ruined buildings have their own walls running with water, and their ghastly state scaring off tourists? Why can we not have the facades painted, or vinyl photographs attached over the facade from top to bottom as they do in some English towns? Send the landlord the bill.

Kate Forbes, our MSP and now finance secretary, can you help?

Last autumn, to great fanfare, the Highland Council hosted Lochaber 2040 at the Nevis Centre so that people could come and hear of the plans for 20 years hence. What was shocking is that not one of the proposals was for the town centre (except the cinema). They were all, or virtually all, unfunded, uncosted and unlikely to happen public sector projects outside the town.

Now for some good news, rents in the High Street have fallen by half, and you can get a well positioned shop for less than £1,000 per month. The town is crying out for some services - a town centre launderette, a computer repair company, at least one more excellent coffee shop (see

how well The Wildcat is doing), a booth selling tickets for the dozens of outdoor activities around, a shoe and clothing repair outlet. So for a small single shop, rents are low and if your rateable value is less than £15,000 you will pay zero business rates. It is a fantastic opportunity, although my opinion is that every shop should pay some rates, including charities, to spread the load.

From a macro point of view, the burden of the rates falls disproportionately on retailers, who make up five per cent of the economy but pay 25 per cent of all business rates. Business rates tax have risen from 34 per cent to 50 per cent of rateable value since 1990. And, due to the collapse of rents, business rates which used to be around 50 per cent of the property rental cost are in some instances now more.

Amazon accounts for five per cent of all retail sales in the UK and Netflix will be the biggest competitor for the cinema, yet neither contributes towards the business rates receipts of Highland Council. At the Highland Bookshop, we pay £4,000 higher rates than if we were in England due to a 30 per cent small business reduction scheme in the south, and Boris Johnson has announced a 50 per cent reduction in rates payable by smaller cinemas. We understand this will not be made available by the Scottish Government, and the Highland Cinema expects to pay more than £50,000 in rates.

We need lower business rates, a digital sales tax, the empty shops to be occupied, and we need locals and visitors to come to the centre of town outwith the summer months.



## CÙRSAICHEAN GOIRID - EASTER SHORT COURSES 2020



**FIDDLE - WEST COAST STYLE**  
WITH IAIN MACFARLANE  
30/03 - 03/04/2020



**PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT**  
WITH INGRID HENDERSON  
30/03 - 03/04/2020



**FLUTE AND WHISTLE**  
WITH HAMISH NAPIER  
06 - 10/04/2020

Chan eil ach beagan àitean air fhàgail.

Limited places left on our courses.

cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk - 01471 888 240  
www.smo.uhi.ac.uk



follow us on  
**facebook**



**MUTHU  
FORT WILLIAM  
HOTEL**  
\*\*\*  
FORT WILLIAM - SCOTLAND



*This stunning location overlooks the shores of Loch Linnhe, combining an old world charm with well appointed en-suite bedrooms. An astonishing Restaurant, that is popular among the locals, a cosy Bar and a Lounge with free Wi-Fi throughout the building. Offering the best of Highland hospitality and personalised service.*

Book today at [www.muthuhotelsmgm.com](http://www.muthuhotelsmgm.com)

Call  
**01397 702614**  
to  
**Book Now**



**MOTHER'S DAY  
LUNCH**  
**£24.50 P.P.\***

*\*Valid for 2 Adults & 2 + Children  
\*Mother Eats for Free*



LUNCH OR DINNER

**Easter**  
**SUPER CARVERY  
+ DESSERTS**  
**£18.00 P.P.**

*\*Egg Hunt for Children*



**CORPORATE  
DRINKS  
EVENING**

*Come in to meet the team  
over drinks & snacks (No Charge)*



STAY TUNED & GET THE INSIDE SCOOP  
ON EVENTS, SPECIAL OFFERS  
AND MUCH MORE...

**11 HOTELS TO EXPLORE IN ENGLAND & SCOTLAND**

**SCOTLAND:** FORT WILLIAM, NAIRN, THURSO, TYNDRUM, DALMALLY, OBAN, GLASGOW  
**ENGLAND:** NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, IPSWICH, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

**MGM**  
MUTHU HOTELS

[WWW.MUTHUHOTELSMGM.COM](http://WWW.MUTHUHOTELSMGM.COM)

LT

## A healthy attitude to dieting

BEN TURNER  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Diet. A word that strikes fear into the hearts of some and the assumption of too much hard work in others. Many people associate diets with severe restriction, sin foods, punishment and with misery.

The word diet has been misrepresented, over used and abused by the latest fads, the 'new things' and the latest in 'revolutionary eating'.

The problem is there is nothing revolutionary, new or amazing here. Diets follow the principle of a calorie deficit which means eating less than you are burning daily.

All diets work provided they put the individual into a calorie deficit and that you adhere to them.

A UK-based Randomised Control Trial study published in the British Medical Journal (Truby et al, 2006) compared four common diets. The study compared the Atkins, Rosemary Conley, Weight Watchers and Slim Fast interventions with 293 participants over six months. The study found that over the six months of the trial, all brought about significant weight and body fat loss.

The results showed 'all diets resulted in significant loss of body fat and weight over six months. Groups did not differ significantly but loss of body fat and weight was greater in all groups compared with the control group. Average weight loss was 5.9 kgs and average fat loss was 4.4 kgs over six months. The Atkins diet resulted in significantly higher weight loss during the first four weeks but by the end was no more or less effective

than the other diets'.

What does this mean? Ultimately, a calorie deficit is the common denominator. The 'answer' or 'best diet' is a marketing gimmick. A diet is only the best if you can stick to it and it puts you into a manageable calorie deficit.

There are interesting factors to bear in mind.

Firstly, get an understanding of what you want. There are some diets that can result in faster weight loss in the short term than others. These results will ultimately slow over the longer term and can result in weight regain if not followed up with appropriate habits and a healthy approach.

Equally, do you want to be on a diet for 12 months?

Secondly, find the best diet you can stick to. This is the key to achieving your fat or weight loss goal in a calorie deficit. Sometimes this is the area that can confuse people. If this is the case, get help. Seek advice from an evidence-based nutritionist who will help you find an answer for you, not fit you to a set of strict parameters around their bias.

It is the theoretical understanding that underpins the practical application. I give you the theoretical understanding, the 'how to fish', so that with some guidance, you may go forward with the practical application.

For full details on references and more on this topic, or if you need advice, reach out through social media (Ben Turner – Athlete) or via my website [www.athleteadventure.com/journal](http://www.athleteadventure.com/journal).

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

Ballachulish Shinty Club Lottery: numbers drawn on Sunday March 8 were 2, 5 and 11. Donald MacIntyre of Onich won the £200 jackpot. There will be another £200 up for grabs in the next draw.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club Lotto: numbers drawn on Monday March 8 were 15, 16 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot for the next draw will be £200.

Fort William Golf Club Lotto: numbers drawn on Thursday March 5 were 4, 6 and 13. There was no winner so the jackpot today (Thursday March 12) will be £1,200.

# GETINTOUCH

email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)  
telephone 01397 703003



## Game postponed but Sussex fans enjoy Claggan Park visit

The continuing wet weather put paid to Fort William FC's home Highland League match against Nairn at Claggan Park on Saturday which had to be postponed.

Forecasts for more rain also saw last night's home league match switched to Forres Mechanics' Mosset Park ground.

Despite Saturday's game

being off, the club welcomed fans from Lewes Football Club in East Sussex.

They made the 1,140-mile round trip from the south-east coast of England in the hope the game against Nairn would be played, but when it fell victim to the weather, they still enjoyed the warm Claggan Park welcome.

One of the travelling Lewes

FC supporters group has links to Nairn.

They are pictured with Fort William officials Scott Hunter, John Trew and Colin Wood.

Fort William are due to welcome Deveronvale this Saturday, then Huntly at Claggan Park the following weekend – weather permitting.

# Narrow for Fe

Fort William FC	0
Strathspey Thistle	1
Highland League	

Report: Michael O'Meara

Fort William returned to Claggan Park on Wednesday night for the first time since November, but the Lochaber side narrowly lost the league encounter 0-1 to Strathspey Thistle.

Fort started the strongest with multiple corners in the opening 15 minutes of the game and chances coming to trialist Danny MacKintosh, whose shot just went wide.

Iain MacLellan also had an early chance from a tight angle but his shot was blasted over. Aidan Taylor had a chance from distance but it didn't trouble Thistle keeper Michael MacCalum.

Thistle started to come into the game a bit more, with Lisle's shot from 25 yards going a whisker past the post.

Fort William then had a Jordan Andrew shot cleared of the line. The score as they went into half time was 0-0 with the hosts the



Lochaber Athletic Club junior winter league prizewinners.

## Junior runners hit their stride in hill race

Lochaber Athletic Club juniors recently ran their first hill race in their final winter league event.

It involved laps round the Braveheart car park and over the cow hill track to the leisure centre in Fort William in rain and snow.

First home in nine minutes, nine seconds in the under-11 age group was Maddison MacMillan who also won the league title for the four race series.

She was closely followed by Eilidh Lander and Ishbel Airle-Gilbert who were third and second in the overall league standings.

Rocco MacMillan was first in the under-11 boys, with Angus Davies close behind. Angus and Rocco completed all four league races and were joint winners of the boys' trophy.

On the longest course, Mya Carmichael was first under-15 in 20:23 minutes

and took the league title, while Fraser Anderson had another fine run to win the under-15 boys race in 16:57 minutes and clinched the league title, with Dylan Martin in second. Another league winner was Duncan MacDonald in the under-13 boys.

The club thanked the marshals and other volunteers for braving the conditions and to LEAP for sponsorship of the junior winter league.

# Low league loss Fort William FC



Fort's Danny MacKintosh almost puts the ball past the Strathspey keeper. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Another 'almost' goal as Fort's Iain MacLellan races down the wing. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

lightly better side. In the 60th minute, Fort William number nine Roddy Kennedy, playing in a slightly deeper role, shot from the edge of the box and the ball looked to hit the defender's hand. Unfortunately for Fort, nothing was given by the referee to the astonishment of the home support. A couple of minutes later Kennedy had a second chance blocked denying his side

a deserved lead. Andrew then dribbled past three Thistle players but his final effort appeared too heavy and the visitors got the ball away.

In the 66th minute, Thistle won a corner kick, but the delivery proved too difficult for Hoban to catch and the men in blue got the only goal of the evening with a back post header from Craig MacMillan that turned out to

be the eventual match winner. Immediately after the goal, Fort manager Calum MacLean made the first of his three substitutions with Andrew making way for exciting prospect 16-year-old Connor Moore.

Fort kept pushing and causing threats with almost every attack but, despite the pressure and a number of substitutes, could not get the equaliser.

## Highland athletes encouraged to apply for travel money

The Highland Athlete Travel Award Scheme is designed to support performance or development athletes from Highland with travel and accommodation costs for an agreed training and competition schedule outside of the Highland Region.

This pilot scheme is funded by sportsScotland and High Life Highland and is administered by High Life Highland. It has a total budget of £12,000 for the pilot with eight eligible applicants receiving up to a maximum of £1,500 in a single financial year.

A list of sports included in the scheme can be found on the sportsScotland website.

The main aim of the project is to improve opportunities for Highland athletes to participate, progress and achieve in sport by:

- Helping to prepare Scotland's best athletes from Highland to perform on the national and international stage;

- Providing financial support for Highland athletes to access high performance expertise in sport;
- Helping Highland athletes to consistently achieve selection to national age grade, national GB programmes and ultimately winning on the world stage.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday April 10, 2020.

## FOOTBALL



**Continued from page 56.** 'Put simply, injuries and work availability is really hampering us,' he told the Lochaber Times. 'We had to use three different centre half pairings in this game alone. We are missing around eight first team players, which is making the season very hard. 'There are some positives. Youngsters like Mikey McLean and Ross MacLean were very good but, put simply, we need to get back out on the training field on Wednesday and give it our all and improve the result next week.'

# Lochaber RFC U15s go down fighting in cup

Stornoway Under 15s	63
Lochaber RFC U15s	0
Caledonia Cup	

Lochaber RFC U15s were well beaten by a strong Stornoway side in their first Caledonia Cup match at the weekend but there were still a lot of positives on display from the young mainland visitors.

This was always going to be a tough away game as it required a long journey and overnight stay, and it was the first of the season for the older players – the majority of the squad being in the younger U14 age bracket.

Also, training ahead of the trip had been severely restricted by bad weather.

Playing into the rain and strong wind, Lochaber were on the back foot from kick-off and it was not long before Stornoway crossed for their first try.

More followed and it was

not until the 20-minute mark and 17-0 down that Lochaber started to string together some passes, showing their hosts they could play rugby.

But the half-time score was 24-0.

Despite some good play from Lochaber in the second half, Stornoway ran in more long-range tries.

At 34-0, after Lochaber had won a couple of turnovers and after a perfectly executed try-saving tackle on the left wing, it appeared the team might be about to show its true rugby skills.

### Positives

However, the loss of the Lochaber captain Hamish Kelly through injury with 10 minutes to go knocked the remaining stuffing out of the boys and Stornoway went on to rack up a somewhat flattering final score of 63-0. Despite the scale of the defeat, there were a lot of positives from this outing.

The number of available players in this age group is a huge positive as it has been 12 years since Lochaber RFC was last able to field a full 15.

And the enthusiasm of the boys in this age group knows no bounds.

The referee said after the game he was impressed by their willingness to come back for more rugby, after either a try was scored against them or another setback, particularly in the last 10 minutes when four of the team's best players were off the pitch.

With continuing regular attendance at team training and their own fitness programmes, they will gain in strength and confidence. If they can stick together through their school years, they have a good future.

**SUBSCRIBE**  
www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions



SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780  
M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk  
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban



## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 1°C to 7°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 12, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	01.23	0.0	07.23	4.2
	13.57	0.4	19.42	3.9
<b>Fri</b>	02.06	0.2	08.01	4.0
	14.37	0.6	20.21	3.7
<b>Sat</b>	02.51	0.4	08.40	3.7
	15.20	0.9	21.02	3.5
<b>Sun</b>	03.40	0.7	09.22	3.3
	16.09	1.2	21.50	3.2
<b>Mon</b>	04.34	1.1	10.13	3.0
	17.08	1.5	22.57	2.9
<b>Tues</b>	05.38	1.5	11.42	2.6
	18.21	1.7	***	**
<b>Wed</b>	00.57	2.8	06.59	1.7
	15.13	2.6	20.02	1.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

Narrow league  
loss for Fort  
William FC

Lochaber RFC  
U15s go down  
fighting in cup

## Fort William FC bans young Ultras fans from home games

The group of young Fort William FC fans known as The Ultras have been banned from future home games following what the club this week said was their 'unacceptable behaviour' at a number of games this season.

Matters seemed to come to a head after the whistle went at the end of the Claggan Park club's Highland League defeat by Strathspey Thistle on Wednesday night.

Individual members of The Ultras will now only be allowed entry to future games if they are accompanied by a parent.

In a statement issued on Thursday March 5, club chairman Peter Murphy explained: 'Following unacceptable behaviour of The Ultras supporters group over a number of games this season we have taken the decision to ban this group from home games.'

'They will be able to gain entry individually if accompanied by a parent.'

There was a mixed reaction on social media to news of the club's decision, with some in support and others saying it was a mistake.

Strathspey Thistle told the Lochaber Times the club had not made any official complaint to Fort William FC about the alleged behaviour of some fans and said it was 'satisfied' with the action taken by the Claggan Park club and that the matter was now closed as far as it was concerned.



## Youth players thank jersey sponsor Jewson

Lochaber Rugby Football Club (RFC) youth players recently presented a framed jersey to Craig McPherson, a former Lochaber rugby player and representative of jersey sponsors, Fort William builders merchants Jewson. Mr McPherson, Jewson's Business Unit director for the Highlands and Islands, received the gift from Stevie McAleer, Lochaber RFC head of Youth Rugby. The framed strip will take pride of place as a thank you to the company's Fort William branch. Staff were provided with the same tops and the plan is they will wear them in the branch on Fridays before home games at Banavie to promote the club.

Turn to page 55 for full report on Lochaber RFC U15's trip to Stornoway.

# Rusty Jags creak under pressure

Eaglesham AFC	8
South Lochaber Thistle	2
GGPL Division One	

South Lochaber Thistle's rollercoaster season took another dip this week as they were put to the sword by an Eaglesham side made to look invincible, writes Peter Newman.

The Jags hadn't played since

a 6-2 victory over Calderglen in early February and that break was evident as they conceded a goal to the home side after three minutes.

The visitors hit back through rangy midfielder Andrew McLean levelling the score just a minute later.

There was some good play on show too. Veteran Dave Forbes was linking play really well and skipper Martin

Munro and Lewis Morrison were creating problems for the defence. But McLean's goal and the positive attacks were really the last highlight for SLT as a number of individual errors saw them go into the break 3-1 down.

The second half saw Eaglesham continue in the same remorseless fashion and injuries to Mikey McLean and Barna Tot saw an already

diminished squad cut down again.

At 8-1 down, Cameron Grant was shown a red card for a second bookable offence and the Jags were awarded a penalty which substitute striker Bradley Cameron dispatched for the smallest of consolations.

Manager Alan Gray said it was a tough result to take.

Continued on page 55.

## Sports fixtures

### Saturday March 14:

**Football:** Fort William FC v Deveronvale, Highland League, Claggan Park. Kick-off 3pm.

**Rugby:** Lochaber RFC v Cumbernauld, Tennent's West Region League Division 3, Banavie. Kick-off 3pm.

### Sunday March 15:

**Netball:** Caithness v Fort William Falcons, Inverness, 3.15pm. Any clubs wishing fixture details included in this weekly round-up must send details by first thing Monday morning. Email [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)



Breadalbane Street  
Oban, Argyll PA34 5NZ  
Tel/Fax 01631 564443

4.6 Crystal bed only **£215**  
Drawer and headboard extra



**WOW!**  
**FANTASTIC OFFER**